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TV smog film criticised for scare-mongering

WDR television director Werner Höfer went over and over the alternatives: "Broadcast and be damned – don't broadcast and don't be damned -- broadcast at some other time – broadcast in a different form – broadcast with appropriate credits and disclaimers".

In the end he took the most obvious decision: broadcast, and follow up the broadcast with a discussion. The dilemma arose over a television film scripted by former journalist and nowadays star author Wolfgang Menge. It is due to be broadcast by Westdeutscher Rundfunk on 15 April at 8.15 in the evening and the subject is smog.

The English word has made its way into the German language and now Germans know that smog means waste products from combustion, and in particular sulphur dioxide, that cannot rise because of thick fog. For some weeks now the filthy subject has been bothering television bigwigs in Cologne as much as it generally bothers city fathers, industries associations and those who want to polish up the image of the Ruhr industrial area: the creation and consequences of the choking yellow clouds, the full catastrophe of an outbreak of smog which Herr Menge has documented in the highly industrialised built-up area between the Rhine and Ruhr.

The reasons for the upset are not so much that smog is nothing to worry about in this country – the atmospheric conditions over parts of the industrial landscape between Duisburg and Dortmund, Hagen and Herne were again so critical just a few weeks ago that the Düsseldorf Labour Affairs and Social Welfare Ministry was debating whether it should issue the smog alarm which North Rhine-Westphalia is empowered to do, the only Federal state with this power.

It is not scare-mongering about which the critics are criticising and the protesters protesting so much as the effects that the film could supposedly trigger off. There would be a severe dent in the image of the *Kohlenpott*, which is already regarded by many as a blot on the environmental landscape with its pits and factory chimneys, and this would have a detrimental effect on attempts to recruit new industry and new labour.

Menge's film which centres round the issuing of a smog warning could certainly put the fear of God into many who view it. On a grim January day on the Rhine at the imaginary town of Kehlbeck the sulphur dioxide level reaches the upper tolerance limits. A housewife out shopping discovers her stockings have dissolved into holes on her legs, presumably as a result of the SO_2.

After a certain amount of hesitation the authorities take the advice of the State Institute for Protection Against Noxious Emissions and Misuse of the Land (a real body) and issue an alert, grade I. The State Industrial Control Boards immediately warn companies in the area which emit more than 200 kilograms of sulphur dioxide per hour that within 24 hours they must stock up with fuels and raw materials containing the minimum of sulphur and convert their equipment to use of such materials and fuels.

Although in Kehlbeck and its environs a grade II alert is issued next day (preventing the disposal of soot, incineration of garbage and implementing a temporary ban on motor traffic in certain zones) a catastrophe almost ensues. Hospitals are filled and twelve people die.

Wolfgang Menge's film idea is not just pie in the sky, even his critics have to admit that, though most of them have not read the script anyway. He has been impressed by the problems of environmental protection since he read Rahe Carlson's *Silent Spring*, about the dangers of DDT. Menge, a former East Asia correspondent, first of all read books on the subject, then interviewed experts and finally researched on location.

The film, directed by Peter Märtesheimer and Wolfgang Petersen of WDR, was filmed partly on location, partly in the studios and partly in the offices of various authorities. Menge says that officials in towns and the Federal states gave him great help in completing the film. Märtesheimer says they were all, "really helpful and friendly". With their cooperation many a fallacy was cut from the script.

The result is a film documentary tied in with dramatic action in such a way that none of the ten million people who live in the industrial area will decide to flee in panic as many Americans did some years ago after an Orson Welles film about an invasion from Mars was shown on television.

Despite this warnings have been issued along the Rhine and Ruhr that the film could give rise to a "science fiction catastrophe". Partly people are up in arms, one assumes, out of local patriotism and partly they are afraid of the economic consequences of the film's being shown. The Chamber of Trade and Commerce in Essen has expressed grave concern. Herr Spitznas, the head of the Chamber considers the film a misguided piece of piracy.

The residents' association in the Ruhr Coal Area has written sharp letters to North Rhine-Westphalia Premier Heinz Kühn (SPD) and the Chairman of the WDR administrative council, provincial assembly President Wilhelm Lenz (CDU) and mayor of Essen Hans Katzor (SPD), saying that if the film is to be shown at all there must be a discussion group organised for afterwards.

None of the protesters forgot to point out that they were well aware of the problems of pollution nor that they realised that the right of free speech and communication must be maintained, and all made the same point that if a film must be made about smog why pick on the Ruhr? Smog exists after all from Los Angeles to Frankfurt.

None of the critics would go along with the television company's claim that it was time to stop worrying about throwing the bathwater in case the baby went – it was time to be specific, the TV said.

They are most suspicious of Wolfgang Menge, being a writer of crime fiction and they feel that he is trying to cash in on their problems at their expense.

Three CDU provincial assembly members from the area affected put a question about the controversial film at a plenary meeting. The Düsseldorf government's reply was laconic and firm: following talks with the filmmakers and the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Services, which is responsible for protection of the environment, the government sees this film as an objective representation of the problems of protecting the environment in North Rhine-Westphalia and in particular in the Ruhr.

Dirk Bavendam

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 February 1973)

A scene from the TV film *Smog*

(Photo:

A dubber's life – hard graft and no glory

Dubbers must have the skill to concentrate over a long period of time without any lapses, and they have to understand how to adjust to what is expected of them by the director. They hardly have any time to stop and think. The intensity with which the voices behind foreign films work is admirable. The tempo killing.

I visited the "synchronisation department" of Studio Hamburg. A simple American entertainment programme was being adapted for transmission by NDR. The dubbers stood on rostrums with open scripts. In front of them was the screen showing the film. As the recording is made they have to have one eye on their script and the other on the mouth of the film-star whose voice they are dubbing.

They only saw the script for the first time a few minutes beforehand. Only if the dubbers specially ask for it is a script sent to them at home so that they can learn it. Once or twice they are able to see the scene to be dubbed with its original soundtrack. It takes a great deal of intelligence for the speakers to feel their way into the scene being acted.

The dubbing director who sits behind a glass screen with the recording engineer gives the speakers a few hints as to how the take they are doing fits into the film as a whole, the reactions of the characters and the like. But all this is short and sharp and cut to bare essentials.

The cutting assistant sits with the dubbers in the recording studio. She follows the synchronised recording and makes corrections. She will stop the take and say: "You need a clip here," or "You ran out of breath there".

The dubbing men rely on her instructions. On average a take has to be done three or four times. Only experts can do this. Compared to the pace in the dubbing studio the tempo in film studios is a dawdle.

I met Gerd Duwner, an actor and dubber from Berlin, who gave the comical voice to Deputy Sheriff Festus Haggen in the Western series *Rauchende Colts*. Duwner says of himself: "I always get the lively roles that give a film colour. Once I get going it is hard to stop me."

Dubbing films brings in money. For a start there are only a few good dubbing voices in this country. Not every actor can turn his hand to dubbing. And with all the imported films shown in this country they are never likely to be out of work.

In the past ten years fees have not increased, but the amount of dubbing required has about doubled. Then about one hundred takes a day were synchronised to their new soundtrack. Now it is 200 a day. Dubbers can now do two films in the time they used to take for one, thus they can earn twice as much.

The price they have to pay is an unknown factor. Only people with nerves of steel can survive the stress. But as for the film distributors, they are happy. They can get twice as much out of the dubbing studio as in the past, but their rent bill has not increased.

Berlin, Hamburg and Munich are centres of dubbing in the Federal Republic. Film companies tend to rely on locals for dubbing, but they will pay fares for a dubber to come many miles if his voice is particularly suitable for a certain role.

Gerd Duwner, for instance, came to Hamburg to take on the role of Ernie in *Sesame Street*. His voice was able to put across Ernie's naive-grotesque character perfectly. It is of course best if characters in foreign series such as Ernie are always dubbed with the same voice.

For instance Vittorio de Sicca can thank his success in this country partly to his German voice: Curt Ackermann. He Ackermannn now lives in Spain, but he is always flown in specially when there is a Vittorio de Sica film to be dubbed.

Gerd Duwner, who spends 75 per cent of his working life in the dubbing studio, says that it is a job like any other. "We are all actors."

This attitude of being in it for the money rather than the glory helps the dubber over many difficulties. The technical staff get their names on the credits at the beginning and end of films but dubbers rarely do. If they complain the answer is usually quite brusque: "What are you complaining for, you've been paid, haven't you?"

The dubbers' philosophical attitude helps them get over the fact that their work is totally unoriginal and that the work they do with their voices is not appreciated for itself and is supposed to benefit the actor on the screen. There is no room for pride in this profession.

Gisela Hermsen

(Die Welt, 21 February 1973)

The German Tribune

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Hamburg, 22 March 1973
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Bonn-Belgrade relations better than ever

Nowhere outside the countries immediately concerned has the *Ostpolitik* pursued by the Brandt/Scheel government been welcomed as unreservedly as in Yugoslavia.

Last month Tito stated in public that it was largely to Willy Brandt's credit that there no longer existed a potential source of international political crisis in Europe to accompany international hot spots of old, the most alarming from his point of view being the Eastern Mediterranean.

Not only have the treaties with Moscow, Warsaw and East Berlin and initial contacts with Prague been concluded or established with Warsaw Pact countries; they have also been based on the continued existence of both the Warsaw Pact and Nato.

The Moscow Treaty established the legal framework on which subsequent agreements have been based. Yugoslavia, in contrast, has chosen to remain non-aligned.

There have been no changes in this respect even though Mr Brezhnev and Marshal Tito have twice met recently and appear since to have concluded a personal truce.

Belgrade no longer lodges vociferous protests against Moscow's policy in Eastern Europe, such as recurred on the occasion of the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania, who in August 1968 tried jointly with Tito to lend Alexander Dubcek support, has since also visited Prague.

Titoite teachings are no longer disseminated to surrounding countries allied to the Soviet Union and gestures are no longer made by the Communist Big Brother that might be construed as a threat to Yugoslavia. Only a matter of years ago Eastern Bloc manoeuvres near the Yugoslav frontier were rated such a threat.

Yet the conduct of Yugoslav home affairs shows no signs of toeing the Moscow line. The Party machine may be in the process of reorganisation as Belgrade tries to stem the tide of separatism in a number of Federal states, but the Yugoslavs are following neither Eastern Bloc examples nor advice.

In the foreign trade stakes this country heads the list, followed by Italy and in third place only, despite a number of joint Comecon projects, the Russia.

The Yugoslav frontiers remain open to visitors from the West without the need to apply for a visa and citizens of no other communist country are at liberty to travel to the West as freely as the Yugoslavs are. This passing to and fro is most apparent in ties with this country.

The passage of goods and people presents Yugoslavia with a continual supply of fresh problems, but there are certainly no plans to stiffen frontier regulations for Western tourists, whose money goes a long way towards balancing Belgrade's terms of trade.

For the time being Yugoslavia cannot afford to dispense with the second major item on the credit side of the balance of payments either. It is the earnings of Yugoslav workers in the West.

Belgrade would, however, prefer countries such as the Federal Republic to boost capital investment in Yugoslavia rather than increase their intake of Yugoslav workers.

Leading Belgrade economists will hear nothing of the objection that in a free-market economy firms cannot be ordered by the government to invest in one area or another. Even a so characteristically capitalist country as the United States has of late, so they argue, endeavoured to channel capital investment abroad through semi-official agencies.

By underwriting export credits Bonn merely serves to boost its balance-of-payments surplus, whereas the Americans have already achieved initial successes with guarantees for capital investment abroad.

France too is beginning to embark on a similar scheme and this would seem to be a promising prospect of striking a better balance between countries with an abundance of capital and countries with relatively inexpensive labour and good sales prospects in the Third World markets.

In his government policy statement of January Chancellor Brandt announced his intention of combining the extension and expansion of Bonn's treaty commitments with Eastern Bloc countries and fresh contacts with non-aligned countries.

He will be making a start next month in Belgrade. In Yugoslavia he is viewed as a benevolent rich uncle from the West but the feeling is that Belgrade too has a number of advantages to offer that would be of benefit to this country.

Immanuel Birnbaum

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 March 1973)

Prisoners' return

Nursing sister Monika Schwinn, 30, and medical orderly Bernhard Diehl, 26, at a press conference in Frankfurt after their return to the Federal Republic from Vietnam. They were captured four years ago by the Viet Cong whilst working for the Maltese Cross organisation.

(Photo: dpa)

Irish problem still defies solution

No one will have doubted the fact but now we know for sure that a majority of the Protestant population of Northern Ireland would prefer to retain its links with the United Kingdom.

Even the IRA Provisionals realise as much. Every bombing for which they are responsible, be it in Ulster or in London, represents an acknoledgement of the fact.

What they fail to grasp is that bomb scares achieve the opposite of their declared aim of an *Anschluss* of Northern Ireland to the South of the Emerald Isle followed by the establishment of a Marxist-nationalist republic.

The population of Ireland as a whole has twice voiced its rejection of these Utopian ideas, the first occasion being the snap elections in the South, in which IRA representatives fared badly indeed.

The second occasion was, of course, the referendum in the North, analyses of voting patterns revealing that Catholics too must have voted in favour of ties with Britain despite the boycott appeal of major nationalist parties, headed by the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

That the majority of Catholics heeded the boycott call is not entirely negative, though. It does demonstrate the popular Catholic support for the SDLP that may facilitate cautious contacts between SDLP and militant Protestant leaders.

The Protestants would be making a grave mistake were they, however, to consider the result of the referendum to represent confirmation of their power monopoly. Of this there can be no question.

Re-establishment of the Protestant power monopoly previous to direct rule from Whitehall would drive the Catholic population back into the arms of the IRA terrorists – and that at a juncture at which there are tangible indications that the IRA is losing support because of its violence.

Whitehall must now so frame its peace plan for Northern Ireland scheduled for 19/20 March in such a way as to ensure that the Catholics are not thrown back into the arms of the IRA.

London must guarantee the Roman Catholic minority the necessary rights in both public life and the Ulster

Continued on page 3

Pompidou victorious

The ruling Gaullist coalition has emerged victorious from the French general election. The much-vaunted neck-and-neck finish did not take place and the Reformers headed by Jean Lecanuet and Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber also failed to achieve their ambition of gaining the casting vote and establishing themselves as a "third force" in French politics.

The extraordinarily high turn-out evidently benefited the Gaullists. The prospect of economic chaos conjured by President Pompidou at the last moment and the risk of a political dictatorship in the event of a left-wing victory no doubt mobilised Gaullist voters to a man.

The result of the National Assembly elections nonetheless bears witness to lack of confidence in the ability to govern of a left-wing coalition including the Communists rather than to unbounden confidence in the Gaullists themselves.

M. Pompidou as the man at the helm and, in the final analysis, responsible has already indicated that lessons have been learnt. The Reformers may not formally be admitted into the Cabinet but the Gaullist coalition has no option but to show greater courage and foresight in domestic and welfare policy.

Should it fail to do so the Gaullist coalition may well lose the next election, which is the 1976 Presidential election. His election hopes may not have been fulfilled but M. Mitterand, the Socialist leader, has emerged as the undeniable leader of the Left, and his starting-position for the 1976 Presidential campaign is good.

Hans Bartsch

(Kieler Nachrichten, 12 March 1973)

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■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Vietnam Paris conference reaches a compromise

Were the number of signatories any criterion the final declaration of the Paris Vietnam talks would definitely be an epoch-making document. Negotiated by twelve Foreign Ministers, it bears 720 signatures. Will it prove to have been worthwhile?

It is more than doubtful whether the agreement reached between the twelve Foreign Ministers will bring about more in the way of peace for Vietnam than the cease-fire signed on 27 January by the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Vietcong.

For one, the final declaration of the Paris talks refers expressly to the cease-fire agreement. What is more, the twelve Foreign Ministers were unable to agree on an effective institution or organisation to deal with violations of the cease-fire agreement.

UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim may have been present at the final round of Paris talks but one of the parties concerned showed interest in calling on the good offices of the United Nations.

The conference reached a compromise representing the lowest common denominator and set itself up as the control authority, a provision that can be considered to posses more declamatory character than practical value.

From the South Vietnamese viewpoint the Paris talks have brought about no improvement on the position as of 27 January. The country's political future remains in the hands of the cease-fire agreement signatories.

The fate of South Vietnam, not to mention Laos and Cambodia, remains dependent on the willingness of these four parties to agree to a solution acceptable to all concerned.

This is why events elsewhere and not the Paris spectacular will determine the further course of developments in South Vietnam.

The United States is evidently willing to allow a political phase-out to follow in the footsteps of the "honourable" military withdrawal from Indo-China.

Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger has stated that Washington would tolerate peaceful developments in South Vietnam up to and including a Communist social system.

This being the case, even greater importance than hitherto attaches to the forthcoming political talks between representatives of the Saigon government and the Vietcong. The United States is now anxious to bring about a complete "Vietnamisation" in order to facilitate a settlement.

A peaceful settlement reached by the Vietnamese under their own steam will be a long time coming, however. The Vietnamese are so much at loggerheads that treaty provisions, in no matter how many versions they may exist, are unlikely to effect a swift change.

Could it then be said that the latest Vietnam agreements contain the seeds of the next conflict as did the terms of the 1954 Geneva accords?

The answer to this question constitutes the only positive aspect of the current agreements. The Americans have succeeded in internationalising the peace settlement in South-East Asia. Indeed, all the great powers without exception have undertaken to ensure enforcement of the cease-fire.

Something similar was, it is true, attempted nineteen years ago, but there can be no comparison between the prevailing international situation then and now.

Endorsement of the cease-fire agreement by the Paris Vietnam conference testifies to the foreign policy changes inaugurated by President Nixon and Mr Kissinger, changes, moreover, that are more in accord with realities.

On assuming office Mr Nixon undertook to inaugurate an era of negotiation. The intention behind this slogan was to accomplish a foreign policy tour de force.

Once a bridge had been built between Washington and Moscow and the dialogue between Washington and Peking had been intensified (as proved the case during Mr Kissinger's recent visit to Mao Tse-tung) the attempt to establish a new balance of power could be undertaken.

The Vietnam agreement reached by the twelve Foreign Ministers, bearing as it does the signatures of the United States, the Soviet Union and China, represents the first fruit of Mr Kissinger's foreign policy concept.

This being the case, it need hardly matter to the President's national security adviser, as Mr Kissinger himself indicated, that fighting in Indo-China may continue for a matter of weeks. Nor, for that matter, can he much care whether a democratic or a Communist regime gains control in Saigon.

Statements such as these sound a cynical note far removed from the ideals to which the United States professed in the days when it played the part of a world policeman in defence of freedom.

Yet nothing but a localisation of the conflict in Indo-China and restraint on the part of the great powers can preserve international affairs from the prospect of the renewed burden of continually simmering conflict.

It is impossible to say in advance whether or not this initial experiment will meet with success, and less possible still to forecast whether or not similar attempts will be undertaken to defuse the situation in the Middle East.

President Nixon and Mr Kissinger are trying to force the other great powers to perform feats of power acrobatics that must certainly be unaccustomed for the countries concerned and may not always prove possible of emulation.

These, then, are the drawbacks of the American balance-of-power concept. The Paris talks and the sudden refusal by Hanoi to release US prisoners of war according to schedule amply demonstrate the ease with which crises can be triggered off within the framework of the new balance of power.

Crises of this kind could well intensify as one or other of the parties concerned feels itself to be at a disadvantage in relation to one or more of the others.

As yet, then, the balance of power of the many is as tender a plant as the erstwhile balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Heinz Verfürth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 8 March 1973)

Allende wins Chile election

DIE ZEIT

Chile's Opposition has won t[he] elections yet remains the loser, h[aving] largely itself to blame. Opposition lea[ders] proclaimed too often and too vocifer[ous]ly that the elections represent[ed a] plebiscite on the Chilean way [to] Socialism, thereby conveying the i[m]pression that the Presidency was at s[take] and not merely 150 seats in the Hous[e of] Representatives and half the fifty sea[ts in] the Senate. Public opinion signally fa[iled] to pillory the Preisdent.

The ruling Popular Front improve[d its] share of the vote from 36.3 per cent [the] percentage with the aid of which Salv[ador] Allende was elected to the Presidency [in] September 1970, to 43.5 per cent. I[n the] House of Representatives Unidad Po[pular] gained six seats, in the Senate two.

The Opposition can hardly co[nsole] itself with the thought that incre[ased] support for the experiment in Soci[alism] came from the illiterate and the eight[een-] to 21-year-olds, both of whom w[ere] eligible to vote for the first time. T[he] young and the underprivileged are, a[fter] all is said and done, a force to [be] reckoned with at the next elections.

The political situation in Chile is more confused than ever. The Oppo[sition] has failed to gain its target of [the] two-thirds majority needed to unse[at] Allende, but it has gained an ab[solute] majority with the aid of which it w[ill be] able to apply a brake on nationalis[ation].

On the other hand the Popular Fr[ont is] bound to admit that despite incre[ased] support more than half the electorat[e] voted against President Allende's [ex]periment.

Dangerous deadlock remains. The [two] sides must reach a compromi[se if] emitional esclation is to be brought [to a] conclusion. Unidad Popular ought [to set] the ball rolling. Its gains were subst[antial] and unexpected enough for conce[ssions] to be made without loss of prestige.

(Die Zeit, 9 March 1[973])

Rumanian Premier Ceausescu visits Prague

Rumanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu paid Prague an unofficial friendship visit on 6 March at the invitation of Czech Party leader Gustav Husak, who himself visited Bucharest in March 1971.

The classification of the Rumanian leader's visit as unofficial would seem to indicate that even now that four and a half years have elapsed since the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops all is still not well in relations between Prague and Bucharest.

A few days prior to 21 August 1968 General Secretary Ceausescu paid Czechoslovakia an official visit and assured First Secretary Dubcek that the Rumanian people and Party viewed Czech endeavours to perfect social and state life and develop socialist democracy "with heartfelt sympathy."

Shortly afterwards Rumania condemned the occupation of Czechoslovakia as a grave error and described the invasion as a flagrant violation of a socialist country's sovereignty and an intervention in its domestic affairs. Ceausescu has yet to withdraw this condemnation in public.

The Rumanian leader accorded Dr Husak an official reception in Bucharest in March 1971 at the Czech leader's request. Last year Mr Ceausescu spent two days in Prague at a meeting of the Warsaw Pact executive. During his stay he celebrated his birthday, but no public honours and ceremonies were held to mark the occasion.

Within the socialist camp the Rumanian leader's visit represents a substantial boost to the prestige of the Czech government headed by Party leader Husak and Premier Lubomir Strougal. It is intended tangibly to demonstrate the normalisation of relations between Czechoslovakia and other members of the Warsaw Pact.

The groundwork for the visit was laid by Czech Foreign Minister Chnoupek in the course of his visit to Bucharest last December.

Foreign Minister Chnoupek is currently visiting Belgrade and will doubtless be attempting to mend the damage done to relations between Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia by the events of August 1968.

In August 1968 President Tito also visited Prague and assured the Czech leaders of Yugoslavia's sympathy with the Czech experiment. Tito likewise condemned the Warsaw Pact invasion.

Over the past four and a half years relations between Prague and Bucharest have been a good deal chillier than is usually the case between Warsaw Pact countries. The so-called Bilak Paper has represented an additional strain on ties.

In a confidential address to the central committee of the Czech Communist Party in October 1971 presidium member Vasil Bilak levelled serious accusations at both Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Via hitherto undisclosed channels the text of his speech was leaked to the West and published by *Le Monde* of Paris. To judge by appearances Nicolae Ceausescu must have lodged emphatic protests against these attacks in both Prague and Moscow and the topic seriously hindered progress at the January 1972 Prague session of the Warsaw Pact executive committee.

No official mention has been made of the topics discussed in the course of the Rumanian leader's visit to Prague but Czechoslovakia can be expected first and foremost to have attempted to improve mutual relations with an eye to developments in Europe.

Economic issues will have been a further main talking-point. This is indicated by the presence of Rumanian Foreign Trade Minister Patsan, the sole high-ranking member of the Rumanian delegation other than the Party leader himself.

Hans-Peter Riese

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 March 1973)

Ceausescu to visit Bonn

Rumanian State and party lea[der] Nicolae Ceausescu plans to make a[n] official visit to the Federal Republic fr[om] 26 to 29 June.

He will be the first communist head [of] State to visit this country officially. [The] visit is in return for a State visit [by] President Heinemann to Rumania [in] 1971.

(Die Welt, 9 March 1[973])

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■ POLITICS

Brandt must control extreme wings from the centre

The SPD will not split. Worried or malevolent observers suppose that the forthcoming party congress in Hanover will reveal such deep-seated differences of opinion that the organisational unity of the party will be endangered. But the laws of probability and sheer good sense speak out against this idea.

Without doubt it is not unimaginative to get the impression that two parties might emerge from the one that forms the main and governing party, judging by the experience of recent years — a social-democratic and a left-wing socialist party — with Willy Brandt as Chairman of both.

But there is nothing to suggest that such a dissolution of the SPD as a whole or such a split in one of the many groups into which the party forms itself would be of benefit.

The SPD is no longer a party on one wing, taking the word Wing at its usual value in this country. Wing conjures up a bird moving forward on two wings or an army guided by the skills of a general, surrounding an enemy on two wings and conquering it.

The wings of the SPD have long since ceased to be limbs that propel one common body or regiments, which at a given order from a central body will make a tactical move for the good of the army as a whole. The wings of the SPD tend far more to fight each other — and as for the common centre it is difficult to find.

It is one of the semantic niceties of Chancellor Brandt when he calls the SPD, himself and his government "the new centre", being at the centre of all politics, including those of his own party. Brandt obviously means this seriously — he is an earnest man and not given to empty propaganda simply for effect.

So we must remember that either the war on two fronts is being directed from a central position against the enemies from both left and right, or the centre, if it is unable to risk giving battle, is making itself the home of radicals and protects them.

Brandt, the centremost of the centre, is not showing many signs of wanting to take up the battle. He is rather enjoying the role of central figure, respected by all fighting bodies and heeded by them, but only venturing to give his blessing to anyone or soothe savage breasts when the gravest breaches of order occur.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Objectively speaking his task is made the harder because there is no enemy on the right issuing any threat and legitimising determined action by the left.

The "new centre" of the SPD does not have any ideological basis, either, from which it could counter the left. It swears allegiance to the Bad Godesberg Programme which paved the way for the SPD to form a government, and at the same time fails to pay heed to the fact that the parts of this Programme which gave an impulse have long since been taken over by the left.

A central passage such as the formula: socialism will be realised by democracy, but democracy will be fulfilled by socialism, always did contain the seeds of totalitarianism which could only possibly be of benefit to radicals.

Furthermore we today are well aware, from examples as wide-ranging as The New Testament and Federal Basic Law, that the phraseology of such documents can be twisted by whoever is quoting it to mean what he wants it to mean, even if this is a complete reversal of the traditionally accepted sense.

In the Social Democrat Party, however, it is the left wing that does all the interpreting. They have the monopoly of it, while the right-wing and centre Social Democrats rely on practice, precedent and status quo, which impress no one.

In this situation all the speculation about a split in the SPD proves to be chimeric. Why should the left wing give up ground that they have already for the most part taken over — in South Hesse and in influential big cities, and which they must be hoping to capture lock, stock and barrel before long? For them a split would only mean losses.

And the solid, old, honourable Social Democrats? In whole areas of the country they have so far failed to bring political awareness to tolerant members to the extent that radicals could be excluded. With time they would lose the most active part, which is vital when it comes to elections and winning votes from the all-important younger generation.

Hopes that at long last the voter will make the decision that would remove worries from his own mind and from that of the SPD by voting for those Social Democrats who are loyal to the constitution and rejecting the others who want to overthrow the system has little basis in reality.

In Britain, a country with small constituencies at which only one man puts up as candidate for a party, this would be possible. It is up to the local party organisation to make sure that the candidate they offer does not put the electorate in fear of losing the good things they have become used to.

In this country there is proportional representation and the local candidate is of little importance. What is of importance is the party SPD and the Chancellor of the centre. As long as the left wing has the protection of the Chancellor and can lift aloft the honourable banner emblazened with the letters S-P-D they do not need to fear the electorate.

This is especially true in the places where they have seized power, since they are clever enough to offer concessions to the electorate like a massive dose of bromide. Only the Chancellor, the top man in the party can change this.

If he understands the centre as a place on which to take his stance, and not a battlefield, he can still today discipline the left, exercise power over the right and stabilise the opportunist majority. It is not towards a split but towards their Chairman that the SPD's trusting and its desponding members must turn their gaze.

Johannes Gross

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 March 1973)

Strauss makes a bid for parliamentary party leadership

CSU Chairman Franz Josef Strauss would take over the role of leader of the Opposition in the Bundestag if the future of the CDU/CSU as a fighting force and its consolidation demanded it. In an interview with Deutschlandfunk on 4 March Strauss said that he was not trying to upstage anyone, but he will not refuse candidature if the CDU/CSU consider this desirable.

Franz Josef Strauss has now publicly stated that he is prepared to take part in the battle for Rainer Barzel's position. With the reservations demanded by tactics he stated that he "would not say No" to the responsibility of becoming parliamentary Opposition leader.

This put Barzel in an even tougher position. On the one hand he is under pressure for the party chairmanship from Helmut Kohl and on the other by Strauss' readiness to take over thee chairmanship of the parliamenty party.

In the forthcoming battles many taking part will come off with cuts and bruises. It has taken Rainer Barzel a long time to recognise that he must pay for the election defeat last November at which voluntary renunciation of candidature for the party chairmanship would have been the most skilful sacrifice. But he still has not lost the battle. It is still a question of choosing the best chancellor-elect for the "union parties" and even more so of matters of political content and direction.

Where Ostpolitik is concerned Strauss, Kohl and Barzel are all well on the way to a tactical withdrawal to normal opposition policy at which the pace will be determined by the considerations of expellees.

There is greater differentiation in the wooing of the left wing of the union. Strauss has presented his own scheme for worker participation showing that he intends to fight in this campaign as well.

A striking feature is the wooing of the favours of the FDP.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 March 1973)

The Irish problem

Continued from page 1

government. This must involve a redistribution of power along entirely new lines, otherwise there will be no overcoming the polarisation of the two sides.

There are two prerequisites. A general election must be held in Ulster to establish clarity as to political fronts and their support. This is an opportunity the SDLP would not want to miss.

In addition to confirmation of the principle that power is to be fairly shared out from the start, constitutional guarantees must be accompanied by details of the ways and means by which Catholic participation in the exercise of power is to be ensured.

In this the Southern Irish government must be involved, consideration for the "Irish dimension" being the second prerequisite for a peaceful solution. This means no more and no less than legitimate representation of Catholic minority interests in Ulster by Dublin.

Hans-Heinz Schlenker

(Kieler Nachrichten, 12 March 1973)

The FDP position between the SPD and CDU/CSU

The Free Democrats are at the moment profiting from the fact that the CDU/CSU are in opposition and have a leadership problem. For many of those who voted for the Christian Democrats or Christian Socialists last November now rely on the FDP as a guarantor against left-wing excesses on the part of the SPD.

Thus it is almost certain that if new general elections were held tomorrow the FDP would receive more than ten per cent of the secondary vote. Some demographers reckon that the reservoir of potential votes for the FDP is even greater. Some think the FDP could notch up between fifteen and twenty per cent.

Obviously hypotheses from surveys of this kind between two general elections are to be taken with a large pinch of salt. But there is no denying that the potential of votes the FDP could obtain is greater now than it was four months ago.

The party leadership is delighted about this because the reserve of votes is drawn almost exclusively from CDU/CSU symphathisers. Opinion pollsters are speaking in terms of the SPD's achieving the absolute majority next time round. This would almost certainly lead to he FDP's joining the "union" parties in Opposition.

Under these circumstances those FDP tacticians who are already thinking in terms of the 1976 general election are exercising the utmost caution. They are out to ensure that the Social Democrats do not achieve an absolute majority.

In their opinion this can only be done if the liberals remain attractive for those voters who tend towards the SPD, but who are not in favour of veering away from the Bad Godesberg Programme in the direction of Marxism. Opinions vary within the FDP on how these votes are to be captured.

The FDP Presidium is about to get to grips with the job of planning tactics and strategy of the party for the next few years. While some liberals think the party should immediately plan conflicts with the Social Democrats others are pleading for discretion. They feel that the time for "limited conflict" has not yet come since the father-figure Willy Brandt still towers supreme over all the ideological disputes within his party.

The electorate, they feel, has not yet come to realise that the SPD will either move further and further away from the Bad Godesberg Programme or will gradually disintegrate.

It is not only left-wing liberals who support this attitude. Centre and right-wing party members have warned that the election campaign for 1976 should begin in 1973. Obviously deputy Chairman Hans Dietrich Genscher, the Minister of the Interior, has joined this camp, although in the past few months he has been able to shake off his image as a representative of the right wing of the party.

This is a rôle he is leaving more and more to the NRW state Chairman an Economics Minister Riemer.

There was some justification in the recent statement by the FDP Association in Düsseldorf that as far as worker participation was concerned Riemer had been left in the lurch by the FDP leadership.

Indeed the FDP party leadership failed to invite him to the talks they recently held with the Confederation of Federal Republic Trades Unions (DGB).

Behaviour of this kind will not pay off, since the FDP supporters who have settled on the right wing of the SPD are not particularly noted for their love of trade unions.

The tensions between the FDP and SPD in the coalition governments of Hesse and NRW demonstrate moreover that Free Democrats in the Federal states do not particularly welcome excessive deference to Social Democrats and trade unionists.

Thus the FDP is operating on the wrong front when it tries to impress trades unions with ever new variations of its ideas on worker participation, as Riemers' antagonist in the party intern, Minister Without Portfolio Werner Maihofer, has done.

Maihofer would also like to win over white-collar workers to his party. At any rate he is trying as far as possible to show a friendly face to the DGB.

The party panels must get to work defining more clearly the position of the FDP between the SPD and the CDU/CSU. Making this definition can lead to further neuroses about the party's image if no account is taken of the fact that the Free Democrats need votes from the right to strengthen their position in the Bundestag and voters from the left for political survival.

Ulrich Frank-Planitz

(Deutsche Zeitung, 9 March 1973)

■ PEOPLE

Hans-Jochen Vogel – the new man in the Cabinet

SüddeutscheZeitung

Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt now knows, if he had not realised before, that he has an equally tenacious rival in the struggle within the SPD as regards policies – his Cabinet colleague Hans-Jochen Vogel, the new Minister for Town and Country Planning.

Vogel clashed so frequently and violently with Schmidt at a recent three-hour meeting of the Cabinet which ended in the decision to increase a number of taxes that one of their collegaues later suggested that the one-time Cabinet battles between Schmidt and Karl Schiller would now be replaced by a permanent conflict between Schmidt and Vogel.

The dividing line in Willy Brandt's second Cabinet, as in his first, does not seem to run between the two coalition partners – the Social and Free Democrats – but within the Social Democrats themselves.

The two main rivals are evidently Helmut Schmidt, up to now the strong man in the Cabinet, and Hans-Jochen Vogel, a newcomer to both the Cabinet and the Bundestag who gave up his post as mayor of Munich to move to Bonn.

Vogel has committed himself strongly on a number of issues such as tax reform, road taxes and financing suburban transport from fuel taxation. His clashes with Schmidt have at times been violent and Vogel opposes cuts in his Ministry's expenditure more emphatically than any of his colleagues.

Observers claim that Schmidt and Vogel were not so concerned with the issues at hand in their clashes. Party rivalry also played a role – so much so that it is hard to forget that it was Schmidt and Vogel, together with Schleswig-Holstein's SPD leader Jochen Steffen, who established the Fritz Erler group before the last elections.

Steffen views this group as a base for right-wing members of the party with more than moderate demands. But Norbert Gänsel, one of the leading Young Socialists, classifies Vogel as one of the left-wingers on the party executive.

The clash between Schmidt and Vogel surprised those attending the Cabinet meeting as Vogel had previously acted with great reserve, prefacing his speeches with remarks that he was new here and did not know how things were done before.

The new Minister -- always modestly inconspicuous, though not badly dressed, and speaking in a pleasant Bavarian accent – also displays great reserve in public. But his simple charm makes it easy for him to make contact with old-established politicians in Bonn who tend to look upon newcomers with both curiosity and suspicion.

Party colleagues, senior civil servants and journalists like nothing better than to see a newcomer come a cropper on the slippery Bonn stage. But Hans-Jochen Vogel has been in Bonn often enough to attend meetings of the party executive or the Standing Conference of Town Councils, of which he was president, to be warned of this in advance.

It now appears as though his non-committal attitude was no more than a facade. Behind this front he skilfully concealed a hardness that will surprise many politicians who did not know him well.

He has only spoken once at meetings of the SPD Bundestag group but he always stays to the end, claiming he has learned from Wilhelm Hoegner that politicians must sit through meetings of this type.

Vogel admits tht there is a vast difference between being mayor of Munich and becoming minister of a department which is forward-looking and in the van of reformers.

He does not deny the danger involved in upsetting yardsticks that have been valid for many years. But as nobody disputes his intelligence and ability to head a vast administration, Vogel should soon have the ministry completely in his control and end the Cinderella-like existence it has led in recent years.

Vogel only planned to make two staff changes within the Ministry. Hubert Abress, a colleague of many years' standing in Munich, was appointed State Secretary and Vogel wooed Sepp Binder from *Die Zeit* to act as his press spokesman.

Hans-Peter Jochimsen, the former press spokesman, was appointed head of the public relations department. The third change was forced upon Vogel by the Chancellor's Office which snatched Karl Ravens from under his nose. Dieter Haack has now been appointed Parliamentary State Secretary at Vogel's Ministry.

Vogel likes to claim that it is only the poor connection between his home and his Ministry that stops him riding to work by tram as he did in Munich. To make up for this, publicity-conscious Vogel, now 47, can occasionally be seen queuing for lunch at the Housing Ministry canteen. But he is too much of a gourmet not to have discovered the best places to eat in Bonn – and those places where a politician must be seen.

Vogel's main advantage is that he can put on an expression of such child-like astonishment while underneath pursuing his aims with immense tenacity. Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher surrendered to him powers of country planning that Vogel's Ministry had in the past anyway, along with a special department and a staff of some 35. Vogel is determined to expand this new sub-department of his.

Vogel was the first Minister in this legislative session to produce a programme. He displayed great caution in choosing his subjects and setting dates. Vogel, the son of a Munich professor, does not want to increase the many difficulties facing him by being over-eager.

He describes land reform, a source of contention for many people, as a pleasant subject that has for far caused little displeasure. His first aim seems to be to embody the hopes of the left while neutralising the exaggerated fears of the right, thus creating an atmosphere in which discussions on the planned capital gains tax on land can be conducted without emotion.

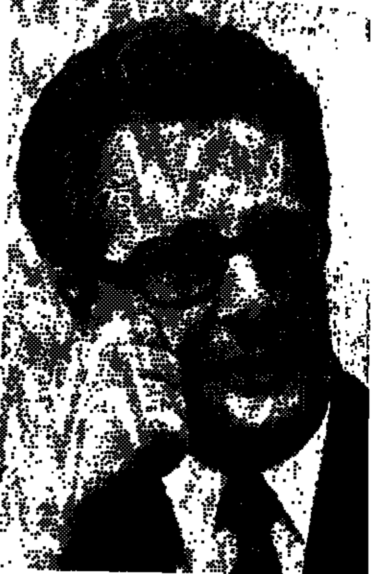
Vogel has spread the word that he will only create the statistical basis for this reform during the current legislative period. He never tires of pointing out that it is not the modest house-owner who is to be called to account but the professional speculator.

Extending Bonn to become a genuine Federal capital is one subject that is calculated to make a former mayor's pulse race – despite his otherwise controlled mood of calm.

His Cabinet colleagues have tended to be rather dilatory on this issue – apart from Lauritz Lauritzen and Georg Leber who have some experience on the subject – and when the government statement was drawn up Vogel stated coolly though deliberately that money had to be spent on a capital if it was to function correctly.

He is now campaigning on behalf of the capital in such abstract terms that nobody will be aroused. The Federal Republic needs new office accommodation amounting to 1.1 million square metres, he claims. New tenants would move into the old buildings which together with the surrounding population and the infrastructure makes up a massive programme for the next fifteen years.

Vogel, who spent vast sums in Munich on the construction of the Olympic site and the new underground railway, denies any suggestion that he wishes to be seen as a latter-day King Ludwig I.



(Photos: Sven Si...

Using the gift of understatement wh... is often observed in him, he claims ... he only wants to display a little con... for the Federal capital and its funct... He wants to prompt discussion.

But town-planners in Bonn, at a ... when the city is gradually emerging f... its status of provisional capital into t... of a genuine capital, already realise t... are dealing with a minister who has ... feeling for the development of ... community.

The spirit of a capital must ... expressed in its buildings, Vogel cl... The way in which the supreme exec... organs are housed also reflects upo... Federal Republic itself.

Vogel displayed such enthusiasm ... the subject during consultations on ... government statement that he was a... in jest whether he wished to he... mayor of Bonn.

Finance Minister Schmidt had his ... however when he demanded a conci... phrased solution. Every word too m... costs the Federal budget one hun... million Marks, he claimed. But ... recent events nobody would be surp... if Vogel forced Schmidt to dig ... deeply into his pocket.

Klaus Dre...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 February 1...

Hans Friderichs – the new Economic Affairs Minister

The Free Democrats' Cabinet team need fear no comparison. Compliments have also been paid to newcomer Hans Friderichs, the new Economic Affairs Minister since Willy Brandt announced his second Cabinet at the end of 1972.

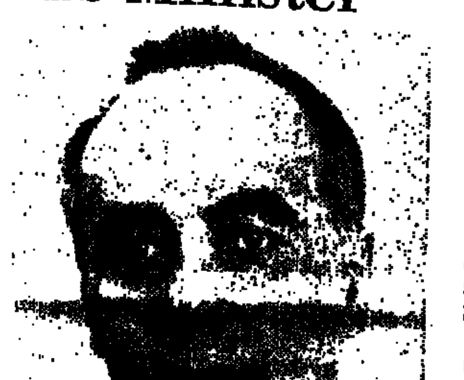
For a long time the FDP had to bear the stigma of being a party steadily atrophying as a result of senior members leaving its ranks to join other parties. Controversy played a major role in recent years.

But suddenly praise can once again be heard. The FDP has greater control of the machinery of government in Bonn than some people might like to admit.

Hans Friderichs has contributed to this new state of affairs. The way he stresses his role and polishes his image is skilful though at times exaggerated.

No other minister in the current government, not even Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt, is assured of similar publicity. The media concentrate on his every word and ask why he is pushing things so far.

Friderichs claims without a flicker of embarrassment that he wants people to read about hin so that he no longer remains an unknown minister. This increases the expectations he is justified in holding. He would liked to have asked



in reply whether this is not a legitimate aim for every politician.

Friderichs states that his Ministry experienced the immensely stabilising influence of Ludwig Erhard, the Karl Schiller era and the short Helmut Schmidt era.

No camaraderie exists between him and Schmidt. "I respect him, he respects me," is his comment. Formalities are presen... in the upper echelons of the FDP ... polite forms of address used. First na... are generally used in the SPD and CD... Friderichs attaches little importance ... this sort of camaraderie.

His Ministry's plan of administration ... one of the wonders of the machinery ... State. A total of 120 sections are group... into twenty sub-departments which ... their turn comprise seven department... These are governed by the two Sta... Secretaries with civil servant status, th... lawyer and technocrat Rohwedder an... Schlecht, an economist of the Freib... school, along with Parliamentary Sta... Secretary Martin Grüner.

The eighth department – respon... for "money and credits" – with its ... sub-departments and ten sections ... attached to the Ministry of Finance und... the terms of the coalition discussions ... last year.

Politics does not seem to have sp... into the civil service world as much as ... been supposed. Officials at the Minis... recorded with satisfaction that Frideric... appointed Schlecht State Secretary ... Schlecht, with no party affiliations, ... been at the Ministry since 1952, init... as State Secretary Ludger Westri... personal adviser – and asked Tietmeye... Christian Democrat, to succeed Sch... as ministerial director and depart... head. The Cabinet approved ... appointments.

The Ministry employs a staff of ...

Continued on page 5

■ LEGISLATION

Health Minister Focke presents her programme

Katharina Focke, the Minister of Health, put forward an extensive programme on 27 February though she admitted at a subsequent press conference in Bonn that her Ministry did not possess full powers to deal with all the issues covered.

She hoped however that the other ministries and institutions involved would cooperate and help to put into effect as much as possible of her programme during the current legislative period.

Katharina Focke claimed that her Ministry at least had full powers to put forward suggestions. Even when other ministries were responsible for an issue she felt herself to be a watchdog, and on top of this a female watchdog, who was to help where necessary with proposals, research and public relations work. Her working programme sets a number of priorities:

Drug laws: Katharina Focke criticises the shortcomings of the current safety standards and states that the prescribed registration of new pharmaceutical products at the Federal Health Authority in Berlin is only a genuine safety precaution when the effects of the substances and compounds involved are unknown.

All new pharmaceutical products must be tested to ensure that their effects are as claimed and no undesirable side-effects occur, she demanded. Products already on the market must also be re-examined and those not meeting up to necessary standards withdrawn. She also called for more products to be made available on medical prescription only.

A decision has yet to be taken on the question of prices to be charged for pharmaceutical products. That is why Katharina Focke went no further than to suggest that the position of the insurance companies on the pharmaceutical market should be improved so that they can form an adequate counterbalance to drug manufacturers.

Preventive Medicine: The current range of preventive examination schemes is to be extended. At present there are seven for infants and a number of schemes to check the growth of various forms of cancer in adults.

In future the State-run insurance schemes should also cover preventive examinations covering diseases of the heart, circulation and metabolism, she demands.

Katharina Focke quoted a passage from the 1971 Health Report which claims that of the estimated 48.5 milliard Marks spent on health in 1968 only 4.5 milliards were spent on preventive medicine while 25.8 milliards went on treatment and 15.7 on the consequences of sickness. This ratio is unsatisfactory, she feels.

Medical Care: The Health Ministry is attempting to increase the efficiency of general practitioners, by encouraging group practices, extending laboratory installations and introducing rationalisation and computer schemes. The prime aim should be the provision of more time for actual medical treatment.

Consumer Protection: Katharina Focke plans to introduce as soon as possible the overall reform of the food laws put forward by her predecessor, Käte Strobel. This will apply both to food and tobacco products, cosmetics and other consumer goods.

Drugs Abuse: Katharina Focke states emphatically that though there may be a numerical decline in drug abuse the sickness rate resulting from the misuse of narcotics is on the increase and the number of genuine drug dependents is also rising. Consumers are also becoming younger.

Protection of the Young: New youth protection legislation should be passed to specify what educational help young people and their parents can expect. The law should be passed by the end of the legislative period.

In 1974 Katharina Focke plans to publish a family report dealing in particular with the influence of the family, both positive and negative, on the educative process of the younger generation.

She names other priorities in this sector. Didactic schemes for family and parental education are to be developed, family holiday schemes extended, a "baby year" introduced to allow mothers



Katharina Focke

(Photo: Sven Simon)

twelve months off work after the birth of a child, part-time working backed and the justification for time off work to take care of a sick child recognised.

Programme for the Elderly: The Bundestag has already accepted the first reading of a law imposing stricter standards and control on the management of old people's homes.

But as the majority of the elderly do not want to live in old folks homes Katharina Focke plans to extend current schemes providing help for the old. She mentions the success chalked up by Hans Iven, the Commissioner for Non-Military National Service, in employing conscientious objectors in old people's homes.

Women: Katharina Focke pointed out that the Chancellor had given her full powers on all questions affecting women. She therefore had to coordinate all measures improving the situation of women.

These include a reform of the marriage laws, gradual extension of specific social security schemes for women, measures under the reform of education taking into account the poorer education normally received by a girl, an extension of the social infrastructure through the provision of leisure centres, day nurseries, children's playgrounds and similar amenities, equal pay for equal work, better chances of promotion, more information on family planning and birth control and abortion law reform.

Rainer Klose

(Münchner Merkur, 28 February 1973)

Labour Minister plans Bill to make working conditions more humane

Labour Minister Walter Arendt claims that the prime aim behind a Bill now submitted to the Bundestag is to make work more humane by obliging firms to appoint their own doctors and safety specialists. The Bill was also submitted to the last Bundestag but could not be passed before the election.

Firms can choose whether to employ doctors and safety specialists on a full or part-time basis. Employers can also ask for the services of a joint organisation such as a works doctor centre.

The Labour Ministry states that the new law will be so flexible that specific concerns, mainly the smaller ones, can apply for and be granted exemption.

Approximately 1,500 doctors are currently employed in factories, 460 of them full-time. There are only 1,500 safety specialists in the whole of the Federal Republic. Demand will increase after the new law is passed though the Ministry could not estimate the extent.

Labour Minister Arendt stressed the need for new legislation by pointing to the accident figures. An industrial accident occurs every thirteen seconds and every year one employee in ten is involved in an accident at work.

At the same time minimum standards are to be fixed in law for housing workers. This step is largely designed to end the inhuman conditions foreign workers are occasionally subject to.

Employers have to ensure the wellbeing of their workers, it is ruled. To check that these provisions are being satisfied the Factory Inspectorate will be given powers to enter accommodation that firms set aside for their workers.

Gerhard Week

(Bremer Nachrichten, 1 March 1973)

Vice-president pleads for more time for MPs to introduce motions

Bundestag Vice-President Hermann Schmitt-Vockenhausen has proposed that deputies should be allowed to introduce urgent motions with a two to three minute speech in order to give individual members of the House an opportunity of speaking independently of the normal party hierarchy.

There should be a more liberal definition of the "obvious urgent interest" that must exist if an "urgent motion" is to be put forward, Schmitt-Vockenhausen states.

Interest can always be considered urgent, he says, when an issue has been thoroughly covered and discussed in public and it can therefore be assumed that the public expects some mention of it to be made in the Bundestag.

Under existing regulations, notice of urgent motions has to be made by noon on the day before the debate is to take place. Schmitt-Vockenhausen suggests setting aside half an hour on both Thursday and Friday for urgent motions, though not to the detriment of the question-time with which each plenary session begins.

He welcomed the government's promise to inform the Bundestag of what had been discussed in Cabinet meetings immediately they were over and stated that he had once made similar proposals.

To make the "normal" question time more relevant to the vast body of members, Schmitt-Vockenhausen suggests that deputies should be allowed the right to raise points of order in direct connection with the government's answer as well as with the question first asked.

The experience of past years has demonstrated that government answers often reveal new aspects that deputies cannot turn to immediately under existing regulations.

Jürgen Schmädeke

(Der Tagesspiegel, 23 February 1973)

Continued from page 4

But including the other eight supreme authorities subordinate to it, Minister Friderichs can count on a staff of 5,441 in all.

If things proceeded schematically enough and if Friderichs has inherited some of his father's and grandfathers' character, the new Minister should possess a fair degree of self-possession.

His father, who attended the ceremony in Bonn at which Friderichs was sworn in as minister, is a country doctor from the Eifel. One of his grandfathers was a vine-grower and mill-owner, the other a forester from the Moselle.

Hans Friderichs was born in Wittlich on 10 October 1931. His father spent a number of years as a senior physician in the Ruhr, an experience that exerted a permanent influence upon him.

Hans Friderichs attended high school in Wittlich, was an average pupil and took the advanced certificate of proficiency. He studied a combination of law and economics, attending Mainz and Marburg universities.

He gained law degrees at these universities in 1954 and 1959 and was awarded his doctorate at Graz in 1957. He belonged to a student association for a short spell and was an active member of the Teutonia Corps in Marburg.

He did not take long deciding whether he should engage himself in the world of politics or not. Although a Catholic, he was alienated by the stance of the Young Union, the CDU youth organisation, in the Church schools dispute.

He became an FDP sympathiser, voted for the party and eventually joined it in 1956 when the Free Democrat Bundestag group split and the secessionists formed the Freie Volkspartei. He was not a member of either the Young Democrats or the Liberal Students Association.

For four years he was business manager of the Rhine-Hesse Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Bingen and he was also given a number of local executive posts by the FDP. Friderichs has been head of the party's South Koblenz branch since 1966 and was a member of the Bundestag from 1965 to 1969.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, business manager of the FDP Bundestag party, persuaded him to devote all his energy for the FDP on a Federal level as he recognised his suitability for a party post.

He was deputy business manager of the FDP for a year and business manager for five years from 1964 onwards. Friderichs is clearly committed to party leader Walter Scheel whom he judges as a better man for this position than former leader Erich Mende.

Helmut Kohl, Prime Minister of the Rhineland-Palatinate, appointed Friderichs head of the Federal state's Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Environmental Protection in 1969 when the FDP was in an evidently disastrous state.

He retained the post when the FDP withdrew from the governing coalition in the Rhineland-Palatinate in 1971. Party colleagues grumbled about his course of action but the party leadership encouraged him to stay.

Helmut Kohl, a clever politician whom Friderichs considers a realist, demanded neither obeisance, contrition or gratitude. All he wanted was help and cooperation. Kohl did not want to break all links with the FDP. His relations with Friderichs are still smooth and without conflict today.

Friderichs has a clear opinion of political power. His speeches demonstrate that pithiness can still be a most effective weapon. His still somewhat youthlike face suggests that nobody will stop him reaching his goal.

Walter Henkels

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 March 1973)

■ ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Experimentation with exports is inadvisable

Federal Republic exports refused to be licked – production costs at home are rising and making our products more expensive on the international markets, and each alteration to exchange rates makes the Mark dearer, but still our exports triumph.

Since 1967 there has been a regular balance of payments surplus of over ten milliard Marks, and the total surplus in the past six years has been 102,800 million Marks. The trend continues. In January this year there was a surplus of 1,600 million Marks. Thus the boom on the domestic market is largely due to orders from abroad.

There were times when such figures were waved aloft like a standard of their own diligence. It was flattering that the whole world wanted West German goods, and we were prepared to accept at face value the fallacious idea that the flood of foreign exchange pouring into this country was a good thing.

But now this naive thrill at the success of our exports has been dampened down considerably. Today even laymen realise that speculators make capital out of our strong currency and that by speculating against the Mark and flooding us with foreign currencies they push up prices.

It is quite clear that this country's economy would not flourish without healthy foreign trade. When demand in this country is insufficient to make economic mass-production possible foreign markets must be found. For this reason the Federal Republic's export quota is 23 per cent of the gross national product, while in America, where a big home market is crucial the figure is only 4.5 per cent.

Futhermore our exports are vital as a source of foreign exchange needed to supply us with vital raw materials and sources of energy, and moreover because we have expensive duties to carry out towards other countries.

Thus it is not possible to gauge how much exporting we need to do from the trade balance, which only takes account of imports and exports. The real figure must take into account invisible earnings and indirect imports – tourist travel, money transfers home made by foreign workers, our contributions to international organisations, the cost of keeping US troops here and many other factors.

An average of many years should see the credit and debit side of this balance equalling out. A country that constantly gains from invisible earnings is doing damage to itself since it is not receiving anything tangible in return for a large part of its exports and since it is constantly giving its partners credit and getting nothing in return but IOUs.

Foreign exchange represents a claim to the national product of another country, but if this claim is never met and all we receive is a heap of foreign money this represents renunciation of wealth that is due to us.

Since 1967 this country's surplus on invisible earnings has totalled more than thirty milliard Marks. To spend this money, to set aside a year in which we imported more than we sold abroad would be economically sound and it would be of value to world trade, for how else can the countries in debt be expected to pay off what they owe?

Thus what is theoretically right, is not necessarily correct in practice. Even a State-controlled economy could not be expected to switch parts of its export capacity temporarily to production for the home market at the touch of a button. In a market economy this is even harder to do.

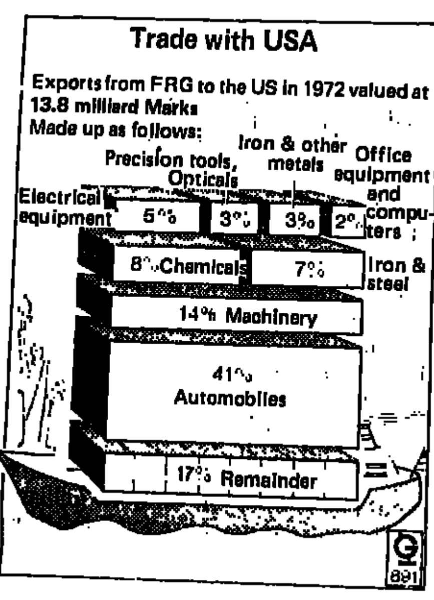
The universally practised method to sell abroad and to make the home market more attractive has so far never been found to function.

No one will willingly give up hard fought for markets, particularly as it would be hard to regain them once lost. Exports are not a kind of tap that can be opened and closed at will. Furthermore the wholesale re-equipping of companies and whole industries – involving large-scale investments to make up what is decidedly lost ground – could only take place over a long term within the framework of a major structural reform. Then there would be the danger that we would go from one extreme to the other, from a country with a massive trade surplus to one with a large deficit.

This really is a dilemma, but it seems as though Federal Republic industry is steering the correct course. More and more companies are planning for expansion abroad. Apart from many other advantages this has the effect of making goods produced in subsidiary companies no longer part of export trade. They no longer form part of the credit and debit side of the trade balance.

Experimentation with exports is not to be recommended. But things cannot remain as they are. *Günther Kutter*

(Münchner Merkur, 28 February 1973)



Ifo Munich predicts economic growth

NEUE Hannoversche

Ifo, the Munich-based economic research organisation, says that there are no just grounds for believing that the most recent foreign exchange rate amendments following the dollar crisis will seriously jeopardise growth of the Federal economy.

It is probable that the decline in demand will be negligeable, even though we cannot be too certain at present what action will be taken by West German exportors and foreign suppliers with regard to prices.

Real growth of exports, the Institute maintains, should be cut back by something like one and a half per cent, while imports are expected to rise by one per cent.

On the basis of the January economic survey conducted by Ifo it seems clear that companies must raise their prices cons derably more frequently than last year. Ifo believes that lively demand will enable firms to increase profit margins, which were under heavy pressure in the years 1969 to 1971.

All in all the results of the survey indicate that domestic demand could well intensify, especially in the capital investment goods industries.

The most recent decisions taken by the Cabinet in Bonn, especially those affecting investments, are not, Ifo forecasts, going to be sufficient to rein in the expansion in demand.

(Neue Hannoversche, 27 February 1973)

Stock market investors left out in the cold

New York's Wall Street censure[s the] Federal Republic's business [com]munity. Robert Haack, head of the [...] exchange warned young Berlin execu[tives] at a business briefing: "Don't compl[ain if] you lose your independence."

His remarks revealed a cu[...] situation. Executives in this cou[ntry] avoid the stock market. Whereas [the] pioneers of our industrial giant[s a] hundred years ago – in the three ye[ars] between 1870 to 1873 –established [...] joint-stock companies thus introdu[cing] the most expansionist phase in [the] German industrial revolution more [and] more business executives in this cou[ntry] are today taking less and less interest [in the] eight stock exchanges.

According to a survey carried out [by] the Munich based Portfolio Manage[ment] organisation, there are 300 fewer [...] listed at the exchange than there were [...] years ago. Last year alone 30 [...] disappeared from stock exchange list[s].

In the last five years 6,500 Amer[ican] firms have financed their developmen[t by] negotiating shares of first issue on [the] exchange while only three Fed[eral] Republic organisations risked going to [the] money market. They were Ilor. Atlantis and Dykerhoff & Widmann [...] is not very promising for investors. [...] 452 issues are quoted on exchanges in [the] Federal Republic as opposed to [...] listings and 40,000 freely exchang[ed] bonds on American exchanges.

Taxation laws are basically respon[sible] for this unhappy situation. Owners of [real] estate have to pay far fewer taxes tha[n] shareholders. The wealth tax they p[ay is] gauged by the actual going rate of s[hares] and not as in the case of real estate by [the] lowest unit values. Where profits [are] concerned the situation is even wor[se]. Dividends are subject to double tax[ation] – primarily as corporation tax which [the] AG has to pay and then income [tax] which the shareholders must pay.

The incentive to go or remain pub[lic is] further dampened by the patriar[chal] nature of the heads of family concer[ns]. [It] takes a great deal of pressure to pers[uade] the head of a company to surrender [his] exclusivity and subject himself to [the] controls of a supervisory board.

"Despite repeated recommendations [on] the part of banks," the Commerzba[nk] reports, "expanding family conce[rns] reject the idea of issuing shares as a mea[ns] of financing expansion."

Although many investors and specu[la]tors would fall over themselves [to] purchase shares in Nixdorf (computer[s]), Okal (housing), Voko (office furnitu[re]) and Wienerwald (catering) they are not [to] be found on stock exchange quotation[s]. Instead companies formed at the turn [of] the century are amoung the main one[s] quoted.

This gravely damages the nation[al] economy, according to the top boys [of] Portfolio Management in their diagn[osis] of the stock market. Of the 80,778 [...] companies in this country (GmbH and [AG]) up and down the country only one [...] thousand is in public ownership. Commerzbank statistics show that 37 [per] cent of all the shares are not dealt with [on] the stock market. They ary heaped up [in the] strongboxes of large shareholders.

Bernd Ertl, business manager [and] co-owner of Portfolio Management complains: "When this is taken [into] account it is grotesque to hope [to] persuade a larger cross section of [the] public to put their money into shares."

Robert Haack from Wall Street [was] even more hard-hitting. He said: "[A] nation that does not have a respect[able] share in its companies will get its hand[s on] its share of the fruits of production sooner or later in some other way."

Jens Friedemann

(Die Zeit, 16 February 1973)

Economic brakes are still not biting

Bonn's Economic Affairs Ministry has predicted a clear intensification of economic activity, which is already well under way, in its latest situation report published recently in Bonn. According to the report the boom is being fuelled from just about every sector of the economy. These are the main motive forces:

- Demand – particularly from abroad – is on the increase.
- Investments in this country are on an upward climb.
- Increased productivity is making greater use of production capacity.
- There are signs of a renewed over-employment problem on the horizon.

With this diagnosis as a background the Cabinet decided formally on 28 February the taxation barriers that are to be set up to stem this tide.

Firstly the industrial advisory committee decided upon the measures involved in the initial stabilisation loan for the siphoning off of purchasing power to the tune of one thousand million Marks to take effect in March, and then the various Bills were sent on their way through the Bundestag. These measures to take effect from 1 July provide for:

1. a surtax on 60,000 companies and about 150,000 private taxpayers with an income of more than 100,000 Marks per annum (single people) or 200,000 Marks (marrieds) to run for twelve months. The surcharge is ten per cent.
2. suspension of the right to make hire purchase interest payments (but not mortgage interest) tax deductable.
3. suspension of the right to claim as tax deductable so-called degressive depreciation on the building costs for all buildings that are not erected from public funds and which are not detached or semi-detached houses for personal use, whenever permission for such building works was given on or after 17 February.

The tax on fuel oil is to be increased by 5 Pfennigs per litre as from 1 July. So as not to penalise farmers the grant for the purchase of diesel oil for farm vehicles is to be raised by 5 Pfennigs per litre at the same time.

Economic Affairs Minister Hans Friderichs stated in his situation report that the amount of money in circulation continues to exercise an inflationary effect, despite the counter-measures taken by the Bundesbank. The situation has deteriorated, he said, because of the cash that flowed into this country during the last dollar crisis. *Gert Tigges*

(Neue Hannoversche, 1 March 1973)

■ BUSINESS

Shipyards prepare 4-year plan

The Association of Federal Republic Shipyards has placed a expansion plan for the years 1973 to 1977 before the Bonn government, based on autonomous planning of shipyards and taking into account the recommendations of the inquiry carried out a year ago.

In the programme now put forward 23 larger and medium sized shipyards are involved, employing ninety per cent of this country's shipbuilding workers.

The autonomous investment planning that is at the bottom of this structural concept and the investment requirements of the yards not included amount to a total requirement of 1,100 million Marks in investment to be made up in the next four years, not taking into account replacement investments. This amount of investment, which the Association feels needs to be made is higher than the 850 million Marks estimated by the inquiry.

The ground to be made up, the Association says, has come about because in the years since 1960 the periodically recurring booms in world shipbuilding have passed West Germany shipyards by, because of international manipulations of the natural state of competitiveness and the excessive production potential of Japanese shipyards. Companies in this country have not been able to make the kind of profits they needed to help them overcome structural weaknesses.

The Association says our yards are still not capable of bridging this gap off their own bat. Therefore the government is urged to carry out the flanking measures to the structural plan without delay, including investment promotion, State support for the shipbuilding programme and backing for the financing of long-term contractual financing.

Among the promotional measures proposed by the Association are investment grants of ten per cent and fifty-per-cent credit at favourable interest rates.

The flanking shipbuilding programme must be so gauged that it accounts for forty-per-cent usage of production capacities over a long term following the implementation of structural measures.

The shipbuilding industry plans to take care of the other sixty per cent of capacities on the world market. In order to achieve this, however, it is forced to offer financing opportunities at the rates prevailing on world markets.

In connection with the structural changes involved in measures that this country's shipbuilders have undertaken in former, programmes the Association points to the high degree of concentration in this branch. In 1960 there were nine large yards. Now there are five.

The trend away from occasional joint ventures to general cooperation is to be maintained consistently. As far as programming is concerned the yards intend to follow the recommendations of the inquiry, which called for a flexible programmatic structure, taking into account the continued increase in the size of ships required and corresponding to the requirements of the market.

(Die Welt, 2 March 1973)

New business institute to be established

Industry, the business community, trade and commerce will in future be served by one mouthpiece. The Deutsches Industrie Institut, which in the past has first and foremost represented the interests of big industry will be re-formed into the Deutsches Institut der Wirtschaft.

This is to allow the organisation a broader working basis required to give the organisation greater understanding of the needs of the business community.

The financiers of the previous Institute, whose HQ is in Cologne, will remain. They are in roughly equal proportion employers associations and industrial associations, such as the Association of Federal Republic Motor Manufacturers.

At the moment 42 such associations are members of the Industries Institute. The bodies responsible for this organisation are the Federal Industries Confederation (BDI) and the Federal Association of Employers Associations (BDA). They will remain responsible after the reorganisation. But they are not among the organisation's financial backers.

The total budget that industry will be making available to the new mouthpiece is in the region of six million Marks. The number of people employed will be about 200.

Wilhelm Weisser, the editor of *Schnelldienst* and *Unternehmerbriefe*,, the journals of the former DII said that the term "industry" no longer covered the field for which the organisation was responsible. For example the problems of sickness pay, social security and economic policies go far beyond what is implied by "industry" in the narrower sense.

The intended greater power that will be vested in the new Institute for the Federal Economy will not, Weisser stresses, interfere with the public relations work of other associations and organisations. Nor is there any intention to make the business community mimbers of the new Institute via the various umbrella organisations.

The DII was formed in 1951 to represent the joint interests and aims of industrialists on a scientific basis, especially in connection with the public at large.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 28 February 1973)

VW views future confidently

Volkswagen introduced three special shifts at all factories in February. These will be continued throughout March, and in April there will be two extra shifts, according to a spokesman for Volkswagenwerk AG, Wolfsburg. Originally only two special shifts were planned for February and March.

The company preferred to offer its workers the chance of shift-working and overtime rather than taking on new staff, following consultations with the workers' council. Nevertheless VW plan this year (albeit plans made before the dollar devaluation) to take on 8,000 extra staff, of which half will be foreign workers. There are already 2,000 workers from abroad at the Wolfsburg and Salzgitter plants.

In America VW will be increasing prices by about seven per cent. But the increases are to be made. There will probably be a decline in sales, but all the stops will be pulled out to achieve the desired 500,000 sales this year. Last year VW sold 486,000 cars in America.

Volkswagen experts believe that the dollar devaluation will not seriously afflict pricing and open up price gaps, since Japanese competitors are having to cope with the cheaper dollar and up-valued Yen, and United States manufacturers are hardly likely to be able to avoid price increases, especially as the parts for many smaller cars are manufactured in Eruope.

The Wolfsburg spokesman said that the company's development in the current year is very encouraging. Exports are satisfactory and in-coming orders from the domestic market are up. The main worry is profits. Wage and salary increases have meant extra expenditure of 525 million Marks this year. In addition suppliers have put their prices up. Only about a half of these extra overheads could be covered by the price increases of about 4.4 per cent made at the beginning of February.

Last year VW sold a good 200,000 fewer cars. Nevertheless the profits situation was better. Apart from dividends of 4.50 Marks per fifty-Mark share, all genuine earnings again, it was possible to add to company reserves.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 23 February 1973)

Frankfurt Fair exhibitors satisfied with results

Frankfurt's spring fair this year marked the fiftieth jubilee and for the 3,073 exhibitors from home and abroad it brought results that were satisfactory to good for the most part. There was every sign that the economy in his country is indeed picking up. The number of in-coming orders from this country and abroad to industrial manufacturers was considerably up on last year.

The appeal of Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Hans Friderichs to exhibitors to make a start towards levelling off prices at the Frankfurt Fair fell on stony ground. It was clear that manufacturers were able to raise prices by anything between three and nine per cent and still make satisfactory sales.

Where exports were concerned there was some slackening off whenever foreign suppliers were able to offer better conditions than West German competitors. Exports to the United States and other countries which trade through dollars proved for the most part quite difficult.

All in all the Frankfurt Fair brought better results in certain sectors than last year's. This is particularly true of musical instruments, glass, ceramics, china and cutlery, while purchasers of gold and silver jewellery as well as decorating materials and shopfittings proved to be somewhat less forthcoming.

A survey conducted among exhibitors showed that 75 per cent of exhibitors from this country were satisfied, of foreign exhibitors 82 per cent said they were happy. One factor that became clear in Frankfurt is the growing importance of the export and transit trade.

The number of visitors was about 76,000. Of these the number of foreign visitors increased. It was about twenty per cent of the total. The visitors came from 76 countries. Although the number of visitors from this country rather stagnated this factor was made up for by the fact that they ordered more.

The main demand was for new items which will be appearing in the retail trade in the autumn. Higher quality items were in high demand, especially in interior decoration and gift articles. The musical instrument trade reports excellent business and order books full for a year. The next Frankfurt International Spring Fair will be from 3 to 7 March 1974.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 March 1973)

Record number of limited companies formed

For years now there has been a spate of new limited companies (GmbH) formed in the Federal Republic, and last year the number reached a new record. According to the Federal Statistics Office the number of new limited companies formed was 16,869 (as opposed to 12,462 the year before) with a total starting capital of 1,500 million Marks (1,200 million).

The number of joint-stock companies (AG) formed last year was 125 as opposed to 94 the year before. Their total nominal capital was 1,100 million Marks (700,000).

At the end of 1972 there were 102,961 public companies entered in the trade registers with a total nominal capital of 117,000 million Marks. After taking into account the number of companies formed and of those liquidated there were 12,183 extra companies in existence at the end of last year (8,328 was the positive balance at the end of 1971).

It was noticeable that in 1972 the number of changes made, such as mergers or alterations from one form of company to another were up. In all 3,150 companies built up their capital by a total of 9,500 million Marks (2,940 companies by a total of 9,800 million in 1971). As a result of the legislation affecting taxation due to changes of a company's legal status the total number of changes, mergers and conversions from AG to GmbH and the like, were up to 1,707 (1,322).

The total number of Aktiengesellschaften dropped by a further 24 (nine in 1971) to 2,271. But their total basic capital increased by 3,700 million Marks (4,100 million) to about 64,300 million.

Twelve AGs (sixteen) went into liquidation. Nine with capital of 28.1 million Marks went bankrupt. The number that merged or changed to another legal status was 128 (85) with nominal capital totalling 1,100 million Marks (800,000).

In 425 (387) cases the share capital has been increased by about 4,000 (4,200) million Marks. The average capital backing of the AGs increased from 26,400 million Marks to 28,300 million. Only about ten per cent of joint-stock companies have more than fifty million Marks basic capital.

The large number of newcomers among the limited companies is not solely due to the boom in the formation of companies designated GmbH & Co, KG, where the GmbH is often the personally responsible associate.

The total increase in limited companies last year was 12,207, making a total of 100,690. Their basic capital at the turn of the year was 52,700 million Marks (48.1 milliard at the end of 1971).

Average capital backing dropped to 520,000 Marks (540,000). Only about 710 companies had more than ten million Marks basic capital.

There were 1,549 GmbH liquidations (1,492 in 1971) with 168.5 million Marks (137.8 million) basic capital. Bankruptcy was filed against 515 (425) limited companies with total basic capital of forty million (33.2 million) Marks. 1,579 (1,237) firms merged or changed to a different legal status.

(Die Welt, 21 February 1973)

■ MOTORING

Instructors and Ministry agree on driving-test reform

Münchner Merkur

"Things cannot carry on as they are," says Werner Hilff, chairman of the National Federation of Driving Instructors' Associations, referring to the game of chance that the driving test still largely represents.

Some 800,000 people take the test every year. Whether or not they pass even the written highway code examination is for the most part sheer coincidence.

Two years after the introduction of uniform test guidelines all over the country a candidate can still fail in Hamburg yet pass with flying colours in the Bavarian Forest.

The highway code test is to be revised. Driving instructors, representatives of the TÜV, the independent organisation responsible for conducting compulsory two-year roadworthiness tests on motor vehicles, and the Ministry of Transport recently reached agreement in Bonn on a catalogue of measures to be adopted at a March conference of state Transport Ministers.

The Federal Transport Ministry's regulations for the driving test came into force two years ago. They include 600 questions and approved answers. The TÜV compiled from the complete catalogue fourteen questionnaires, each including 25 questions.

Questions are divided into three categories. In the first group questions answered incorrectly count two penalty points, in the second three and in the third four. In all a total of 220 is possible on each questionnaire.

Since the beginning of February fifteen mistake points has been the maximum permissible for a pass. Up till then any number in excess of 22, or one question in ten in terms of value answered incorrectly, was an automatic failure.

Now that the test has been stiffened two out of 25 questions answered incorrectly or not answered can be sufficient for the candidate to have to take the written test again.

In other words, failure to answer correctly 0.3 per cent of the overall total of 600 questions can mean the difference between a pass and a failure in the highway code driving test.

"We have no objections to making requirements tougher," Werner Hilff says. "All we want is a review of the division of questions into value categories. In one out of the 25 questions alone, assuming it is deemed a four-point query, the wrong answers can notch the candidate up twelve penalty points and bring him to the brink of failure. This category must only include the deadly sins of road safety."

The present evaluation is anomalous in many cases. You can pass the written test even though you make a complete mess of one right-of-way question and claim to be convinced that U-turns on the autobahn are permitted – both being mistakes that can easily be fatal in practice.

Yet you can fail by merely not recognising the road signs for a swing bridge and a jetty, by wrongly answering a question about parking-meters and by failing to define correctly a special type of headlight.

In a report the TÜV Federation, with head offices in Essen, likewise lends support to the idea of a revision of questionnaires.

Certain questionnaires already have a reputation of being particularly difficult, others one of being a walk-over. If the examiner hands you a copy of questionnaire No. 7, for instance, you might just as well throw in the towel and head for home, old-hands maintain.

Recent trials have demonstrated the extent to which questionnaires can vary in difficulty. A candidate passed one questionnaire with flying colours (two mistake points) but failed another hands down (42 mistake points).

The forthcoming reform will also ensure that marking procedures are uniform. "If you miss out a question in Düsseldorf at present, the omission is counted as one mistake; in Hanover it counts as two," Werner Hilff notes.

Specialists are upset by the mere possibility of influencing the outcome of the test by means of mathematical stratagems. Knowledge alone must count.

Current practice leads to altogether paradoxical results. How far away from a bus stop must you park? If you tick the twenty-metre boc (the correct answer is fifteen metres) you will run up six penalty points. If you miss out the question altogether you only notch up three mistake points.

Or take the following situation. On the inside lane of a three-lane road vehicles are a fair distance apart. Ought you to tuck in after each overtaking manoeuvre or should you stay in the centre lane while overtaking them all?

Logic would seem to indicate that only one of the two answers is correct. Yet if you tick both boxes you only notch up one mistake point whereas if you tick the wrong one you are guilty of a twofold mistake.

Anomalies such as these are to be eliminated at the March meeting of Transport Ministers. The aim, says Herr Eckhardt of the Federal Transport Ministry, is to ensure that "candidates everywhere in the country have equality of opportunity."

They will soon stand an equal chance in Hamburg too. Hamburg currently holds examinations of its own but will shortly toe the line and follow in other states' footsteps.

The complete catalogue of questions is also to be gone over with a fine-toothed comb. "The dead wood must be felled," instructor Hilff maintains.

By this he means questions that call for encyclopaedic knowledge. Must a candidate necessarily know what he has to bear in mind when he has a trailer coupled to his car? He can easily check when the need arises.

Then again, many questions are somewhat idiotic. "Whose address must you report to the registrar of motor vehicles when you sell your car?" one question runs. Now it is hardly likely to be that of your dear old grandmother, is it?

A number of other questions are either incomplete or incorrect. What is prohibited on the autobahn? The answers listed in the Ministry handbook are merely turning, reversing and parking other than on the lay-bys provided. Yet the very first thing you are not allowed to do on motorways anywhere is to stop!

It would seem unfair to pena[lise] candidates who are prepared to s[how] more consideration for other road-u[sers] than the highway code deems neces[sary]. A candidate who would dip his headl[ights] for an oncoming pedestrian runs [up] mistake points, for instance.

Dr Seehon of the Munich-based AD[AC], the country's largest motoring orga[nisa]tion, claims that the catalogue [of] questions includes "erroneous formula[e]." "The catalogue must certainly be brus[hed] up," Herr Eckhardt of the Ministry [in] Bonn admits.

It also as yet makes no mention of [new] regulations such as the ruling on stud[ded] tyres and the 100kph speed limit on tr[unk] roads other than autobahns.

Günther Hetzel of the TÜV Federat[ion] in Essen would like to see a reform of [the] practical driving test too. The regulat[ions] include a number of stipulations that [a] candidate must, may or ought to ful[fil].

The route the examiner chooses [and] the criteria by which he judges [the] candidate's driving ability nonethe[less] remain largely his own. It is rec[om]mended but not compulsory to includ[e a] few miles of autobahn in the test d[rive]. Differences in difficulty decidedly re[sult].

"Obviously, completely uniform [re]quirements cannot be met everywhe[re]," Hetzel concedes. "Where there are [no] traffic lights at a crossroads [the] negotiation of a set of lights cannot [be] examined. Even so, a certain amo[unt] could yet be done to ensure gre[ater] justice in the practical test."

Differing failure rates

Not for nothing do the failure rates [dif]fer from town to town. On average 2[?] cent of candidates fail the driving te[st at] their first attempt. In West Berlin the [fai]lure rate is 35 per cent.

A Stuttgart-based road organisat[ion] emphasises that mere improvements [to] the present system are not enou[gh]. Reactions must be tested in order [to] ensure that candidates who do well bo[th] in the highway code and in the practi[cal] driving test do not subsequently turn [out] to be poor motorists in practice.

Even when the proposed reform [is] implemented the final word will rem[ain] to be said, since the Common Mark[et] Commission has plans to introduce [a] uniform EEC driving-licence.

The Common Market licence will e[ven] involve a character test. Potential road hogs will not be allowed at the wheel of [a] car.

Peter Rudolph

(Münchner Merkur, 21 February 1973)

High speed train on its maiden run

After more than two years of research and development the ET 403 electric locomotive, Deutsche Bundesbahn's "Star of the Seventies," set out on its maiden journey from Salzgitter to Munich on March 1.

The Locomotive has been designed and built by Linke-Hofmann-Busch, a subsidiary of the Salzgitter iron and steel concern, and the complete train is to be assembled at its Munich destination.

The 403 is the first of six terminal units to be built in Salzgitter. The complete trains will be 109 metres (358 ft) long and consist of two electric-powered terminal units and two conventional carriages. The carriages are to be built by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of Donauwörth.

The inauguration of the ET 403 will mark the beginning of an era for Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways. The new train will shortly link Munich and Bremen at speeds of 200 km/h (125 mph).

The control panel resembles the cockpit of a jet airliner. All conceivable technical innovations have been utilised in the new design.

Electronically-controlled pneumatic suspension ensures that the upper sections of the carriages "lean" inwards during cornering at high speeds to counteract centrifugal forces.

The ET 403 can be operated automatically. The driver remains in continual radio contact with both signal boxes and stations along the line.

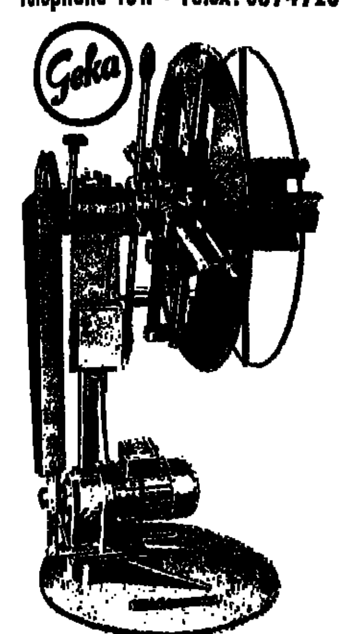
The Bundesbahn have taken every care to ensure the utmost in comfort for the 183 passengers of the ET 403 services. All compartments are air-conditioned and fitted out with seats specially designed for full comfort.

All sixteen axles of each train are individually powered. This is one of the factors that enables the ET 403 to be accelerated from a standing start to its top speed of 125 miles per hour in ninety seconds flat.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 March 1973)



German Rail's new high-speed ET 403 (Photo...)











■ ART TRENDS

Historians want industrial building gems of the past preserved



Machine shops decorated with *Jugendstil* motifs, chimneys looking like obelisks, neo-Romantic railway stations, factories with the facade of Renaissance palaces, copper foundries laid out like the seat of a country gentleman, furnaces reminiscent of Mycaenean tombs and other architectural curiosities dating back to the pioneer age of industry used to be scorned by art historians.

But serious attention has been paid to them in recent years. Interest has increased in direct proportion with the threat of their decay. Since more and more pits are closing down in the Ruhr, people have discovered the aesthetic charm of pitheads and the estates built for minors.

Pitead equipment from the now defunct Germania pit in Dortmund will soon be transported to Bochum's Museum of Mining, all seventy metres and 850 metric tons of it.

A picture book published in 1970 with hardly any commentary helped spark off this trend. Berhard and Hilla Becher's *Anonyme Skulpturen* (Anonymous sculptures) featured the pitheads, water towers, silos, furnaces, gasworks and other industrial buildings scattered throughout the Ruhr in such a way that the observer would pay more attention to the formal typology than to defining their function.

Since then more and more people have pointed to the value of this functional architecture for the history of culture. It is not castles and churches alone that are important though all the stress has lain upon buildings of this type in the past.

Calls have been made for the preservation of at least selected prototypes in an age when technological progress is leading to the destruction of older installations. Fritz Holthoff, the former Education Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia was the first minister in this country to demand the preservation of what he described as the monuments of technological culture.

The authorities acted surprisingly quickly. At the beginning of 1971 the Federal state's Education Minister wrote to the conservationists of Rhineland and Westphalia-Lippe, asking them to draw up a list of technological monuments in the Federal state and initiate steps towards their preservation.

North Rhine-Westphalia's programme for 1975 contains a remarkable passage unparalleled in the Federal Republic: "In future the government of the Federal state will pay increased attention to safeguarding valuable buildings characteristic of the Federal state's techological and economic development. They include pithead equipment, machine shops, locks and mineshafts."

Accomplishments of technological history have been described as monuments in the past – these include Roman aquaducts and wind and water mills – but to extend this classification to include examples of "ugly" industrial culture is almost revolutionary. For years technology and the "soulless" functional buildings it perpetrated were considered the archenemies of a culture oriented around the sensitivity of the individual. As late as 1946 art historian Paul Clemen defined a monument as "the embodiment of sacred religious feelings, venerable historical reminiscences that arose a sublime mood in us." Clemen must have looked upon pithead equipment as being a virtual anti-monument. Modern technology is based on those natural sciences where mathematics plays the dominant role and it was only natural that the antipathy to history common to the sciences should rub off on it. Culture as a linguistically and not mathematically induced encounter of Man with his history is still considered today as a critical counterpart to an ahistorical technology that is always announcing new records.





The fact that it is the preservationists and cultural historians who have turned to the history of technology demonstrates a welcome change of mood. Cultural pessimism with its rejection of technology and its achievements will not show technology its limits. Only a mind receptive though critically receptive to its productive and human opportunities is able to do this.

The area around the Rhine, Ruhr and Lippe has become one of the largest industrial conurbations in Europe over the past century a half. Industrialisation has made such a mark on this area that no rational future planning can ignore the history of this industrialisation and its consequences for town planning.

For this reason, if for no other, we need examples of technological monuments as sources for our study of social as well as aesthetic history. The homes Krupp built for invalids in Ruttenscheid, Essen in 1893 are pleasantly-sprawled garden city ostates that could prove an object lesson to builders of today's terraced houses. Preserving the most attractive and typical examples of technological "architecture" in a Federal state that does not even have preservation laws demands more than ministerial decrees and the good will of manufacturers. The preservation boards in Bonn and Münster were recently merged so that could draw up an inventory of old industrial buildings, photograph and describe them and, perhaps most important of all, consider how these monuments can be utilised in future.

No building decays so swiftly as one that is unused. Preservation in the old museum tradition would be both too demanding and too expensive. "Those monuments worth preserving must be integrated functionally into the replanned everyday life of our towns and cities," Günther Borchers claims.

His is the voice of authority. He has been the chief preservationist for Rhineland since 1970 and was one of the first people to call for the preservation of technological monuments.

But to accomplish this, our preservationists need more powers of planning, greater opportunities of participating in the early stages of town planning and increased cooperation on the part of city authorities, architects and those industrial concerns which are overhasty in pulling down buildings because of their overrding interest in expansion.

Merely obtaining and safeguarding one of the most orginal industrial monuments in North Rhine-Westphalia – an imposing tower that once used to lift two hundred railway waggons a day on to a ferry – has cost some eight hundred thousand Marks. Maintaining it in museum condition will continue to demand vast sums of money in future.

But this tiled tower dating from 1856 is now used as a youth hostel so that the preservation board is not called upon to contribute all the money required for its maintenance. A similar scheme is in operation in Sweden where an historical sailing ship in Stockholm harbour serves as a youth hostel.

The *Jugendstil* machine shop at the Zollern II pit in Dortmund was built by Bruno Möhring in 1905 and is one of the first examples of modern industrial architecture which seeks to satisfy aesthetic needs of workers. This is now to house a railway museum.

The pithead tower at a mine in Wimelhausen, Bochum, was influenced by fortification towers in the Crimea and this is now to be preserved in the form of a student hostel.

Working-class estates built in Gerresheim (Düsseldorf), Hochstrass (Moers), Heissen (Mülheim) and Oberhausen will continue to serve their intended purpose.



(Photos: Conti-Pr...)

Utilising technically outmoded installation such as locks, furnaces and railway stations proves more difficult. Not every railway station can be converted into an art gallery like the one in Rolandseck.

It is only recently that the Kiel... railway station, which had a preservation order slapped on it three years ago, fo... a buyer who is willing to preserve it.

This railway station was built exa... one hundred years ago. Its portal ... Renaissance-style triumphal arch ... acted as a status symbol for the ... bourgeoisie of Bonn. It is still being used for its orginal purpose but whether this will continue to be the case after the planned track realignment is debatable.

Many industrial monuments such ... bridges, pithead equipment and mach...

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■ ROUND THE ARTS

Kohout's *Armer Mörder* produced in Düsseldorf

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG
CHRIST UND WELT

Only the external circumstances are political. Pavel Kohout slily suggested to the Prague Ministry for the Arts that his play *Armer Mörder* (Poor murderer) was something that would bind nations together, if, being by a Czech author it were to be produced at a theatre in this country, especially as it took its motifs from a Russian writer.

But Kohout did not get an exit visa and the premiere of his play at the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus took place in his absence. The local press took its revenge.

Rheinische Post took a statement by Kohout in which he said he took the material for his play from the story *Rationality* by Leonid Andreyev (1871-1919) "in order to go against the trend among his people to reject everything Russian at present". The cheek of the man must be admired. Andreyev, for a time a friend of Maxim Gorki, died in his fight against the Revolution.

Nor did critics in the Rhineland tire of emphasising the main point of the play, which Kohout himself circumscribes in the programme.

"From my window I see a flag waving over the Prague citadel bearing the words: Truth is triumphant. In the past 44 years of my life – I am nearly 45 – I have ascertained that the truth rarely triumphs and that its rare triumphs are short-lived."

There is none of this in the actual play, a psychological thriller. The scene of action is a madhouse in St Petersburg about 1900. On an improvised stage the patient Kerchentsev, a famous actor, is going back over his life, in which a performance of *Hamlet* had a special role to play. Kerchentsev's apparent plan is to show that the murder he committed was premeditated and that his apparent madness is an act.

Kerchentsev's profounder motive is to prove that love has driven him out of his mind – which in turn proves that he is still in command of his faculties. It is a complicated business and Kohout avoids making a final decision whether his main character is mad or sane, but anyway Kerchentsev achieves his aim – he wins the love of Tatiana.

A scene from Kohout's *Armer Mörder*

(Photo: Kaspar Seiffert)

This is a charming, perfectly constructed, but rather old-fashioned play, which develops on three planes. Firstly the reality of the madhouse. Secondly the fiction of the reconstructed life and thirdly the *Hamlet* rehearsal, during which Kerchentsev stabbed his friend and rival in love Savelyov, according to his own, obviously misplaced concept.

The play leaps from one plane to another with the speed of lightning. The audience gets left behind. They are still on the "reconstruction" or "Hamlet" level when Kohout has long since switched back to the madhouse reality, taking the arranger, Kerchentsev, with him.

The production is by Ulrich Brecht, with stage design by Thomas Richer-Forgách. The cast is Wolfgang Reinbacher, Kurt Conradi, Eva Böttcher and Günther Amberger (protagonists of Stroux drama).

The production fails to achieve an integral style. As far as Kerchentsev's mental state is concerned the Düsseldorf production has made up its mind in advance. Reinbacher as the main character leaves no doubt. He is mentally disturbed. If one accepts this limitation of scope and the moving, old-fashioned psychological-realistic style of acting, which could be seen as a step in the wrong direction even though little fault can be found in Brecht's production.

The premiere was an undeniable success. Brecht seemed to be in danger of losing his position as theatre manager, but with this production he has created breathing space for himself.

This he deserves, but in the long run Pyrrhic victories of this kind could tend to prevent rather than promote the chances of an aesthetic reorientation in Düsseldorf.

Jochen Schmidt

(Deutsche Zeitung, 2 March 1973)

Last Prison Theatre in Hamburg

"Thy will be done!" Convict Hatchet cries out to the public as he strangles his cell-mate, while bathed in red light. Rick Cluchey, the author of this play *The Cage* is at the same time an actor in it, director of it and the motive force behind the company "Last Prison Theatre", which is at present making guest performances in the Malersaal at Hamburg's Schauspielhaus.

The Cage was premiered in 1965 in the notorious Californian prison San Quentin. At the moment it is the only play in the repertoire of the Last Prison Theatre. All but one of the cast are ex-cons. On their visit to Hamburg they have begun rehearsals for a new play.

A man who knows what he is talking about, having spent time behind bars himself – guilt of Fate? – expresses the feelings of a man who gets caught up in the mills of justice. *The Cage* shows remorselessly the psychic and physical miseries of men who are kept in cages like animals.

A return to society seems – as the audience is made to feel – almost impossible after years in gaol.

And yet it is possible. The Last Prison Theatre is living proof of it. Rick Cluchey, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment was pardoned in 1966. His play aroused quite a stir in America.

The Cage had an effect on Hamburg audiences as well, although many probably felt little more than a cold shudder at seeing real ex-convicts on the stage.

No one expected this to be lay theatre. It is first-rate acting. In its greatest moments acting and reality overlap. All four actors are strong in both speech and expression, Jonathan Rosen, Micil Murphy, R. S. Bailey and Rick Cluchey. No State-subsidised theatre need be ashamed of actors such as these.

The most important part of the performance is the discussion that follows, although on the first night it was difficult to get this going.

Mathes Rehder

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 22 February 1973)

Cologne's 17th dance academy

The Seventeenth International Summer Academy of Dance will take place between 24 June and 8 July in Müngersdorf, Cologne. For the sixth time there will be a competition for young up-and-coming choreographers (1 till 4 July). Among the experts taking part will be René Bon (Paris), Edite Frandsen, Kirsten Ralov (Copenhagen), and Patricia Wilde (New York), Modern Dance, Hans von Manen (Amsterdam) dance composition, Luigi (New York) and Matt Madox (London) Jazz Dance, José Udaeta (Barcelona) Spanish Dance, and Samy Molcho (Tel Aviv) pantomime. The overall direction will be by Heinz Laurenzen and Heinrich Lindlar. (Die Welt, 20 February 1973)

Beuys wins first round

Josef Beuys, the artist, has won an initial victory in his battle against the North Rhine-Westphalia Minister for the Sciences in front of a labour court.

The court nullified the dismissal of Beuys as a lecturer at the Academy of Arts, according to the Minister's legal representative Dr. Rudolf Pick, who expects that the state government will appeal against the court's decision.

Beuys was dismissed without notice in October last year when he and his students organised a sit-in at the Academy secretariat in protest against the rejection of students who had applied for places.

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 22 February 1973)

Ruhr Festival to change its name

By 1975 at the latest the Ruhr Festival in Recklinghausen is simply to bear the name "festival" at the request of the Federal Trades Union Confederation (DGB). This cycle of productions will be extended in form and content to become the "Culture months of the trades union", as DGB board member Franz Woschech said in Düsseldorf.

The eight-week cycle is to be ended and the new festival is to become an orientation workshop of social welfare and culture policy for the present and future.

Committees already at work or which will soon be called into being, as well as consultations with experts and with the public will enable the DGB and the city of Recklinghausen to plan over a long term the organisational and technical preparations for the conversion of the Ruhr Festival into an exchange and information centre for the workers, giving it extra maturity and effect.

In addition the old idea of Otto Burmeister, that what is worked out in Recklinghausen, should be disseminated far beyond the Ruhr, is to be brought to fruition step by step.

Alongside the theatrical events there will be the peripheral events – European Talks, Science Week, Study Group on Work and Life, Jazz, Discussions and above all the Youth Forum as a precursor to the cultural policy experiments.

Performances by the Youth Forum, Herr Woschech says, are particularly suited for extension beyond the Ruhr to the whole of the Federal Republic.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 February 1973)

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shops are built of steel, – and little research has been conducted into the problems of conserving this material. The red lead commonly used against rust will not be adequate protection in the long run against industrial waste gases with their acid content.

When it is remembered that preservationists will still have to preserve the more traditional forms of architecture such as churches, monastries, castles, palaces and old timbered houses, one question is uppermost in people's minds – who is to pay for it all?

The preservation board for the Rhineland spent 1,3 million Marks in 1972, the Education Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia contributed a further three millions. Additional funds from city development programmes will not be available for the preservation of industrial monuments. Money will be reserved instead for houses built between 1870 and 1910 as a preservation order has recently been slapped on buildings of this period.

Preservationists hope that the central government will make a contribution as a result of the 1971 town planning (grants) law which obliges town planners to pay due attention to the preservation of buildings, streets, squares or suburbs of historical, artistic or structural importance.

One thing is clear. Total annual budgets of eleven million Marks (the sum North Rhine-Westphalia gave its two preservation boards in 1972) will no longer be sufficient to preserve the industrial landscape's "sphere of experience" – a fashionable term now commonly used by progressive preservationists – or at least selected parts of it where the new merges attractively with the old.

The increasing responsibilities of preservation boards, calls for more cooperation on a national level if not the establishment of a new preservation authority covering the whole of the country. Preservationists will be able to discuss this point when they meet at Gummersbach from 6 to 13 May.

Mathias Schreiber

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 February 1973)

R & D

More and more commissions given to 'think tanks'

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

The Federal Republic spent 3.6 milliard Marks on research and development in 1961. Just four years later this figure had risen to 7.8 milliards. By 1970 it had reached 13.5 milliards.

Approximately half the total – 6.5 milliard Marks – was public money. As a comparison the State spent four milliards on social welfare in 1971. The amount of State expenditure on research and development increased by 280 per cent in just under ten years.

The long-term finance plans of both central government and Federal states indicate that research expenditure will rise still further. Current projects must be continued, follow-up projects started and other new fields of research can already be foreseen today.

State and industry are the two main sponsors of research and they both have an approximately fifty per cent share of the research market though the projects they each finance concentrate on different fields.

A large number of institutes, associations and laboratories are responsible for research. Georges Bernard Shaw once said that using one man's ideas was plagiary, using a dozen men's ideas was research. He was right.

Research is a team effort today. Research is planned, creativity supervised and the findings can be sold. Research is a retail product like any other and whether it makes a profit or not depends on the quality of management. Exceptions only prove the rule.

The origins of the "think tank" in the United States can be traced back to the twenties. Their chief breakthrough came during the Second World War. One of the most important is the Rand Corporation (Research and Development) overlooking the golden sands of Santa Monica. Scientists there made remarkable contributions to the development of modern atomic energy technology. Researchers like Kahn and Wiener helped the Hudson Institute to wealth and fame which prompted the Vatican to commission projects there.

The breakthrough in this country came from the prompting of an American travelling through Europe. Clyde Williams, at the time head of the Battelle Institute of Columbus, Ohio, discovered during a tour in 1950 that the Old World did not posses any well-conducted multidisciplinary research organisations on the American pattern. The Federal Republic and Switzerland appeared to him to be suitable candidates for profitable commissioned research.

The Battelle Institute of Frankfurt then started operations with 75 staff in rented accommodation in Dechema House. The main reason why Dechema House was chosen was the existence of a telephone line which was of inestimable importance in 1954.

The turnover during the first year of operations amounted to just under seven hundred thousand Marks. Today the Battelle Institute has a staff of 870 and a turnover of 39.5 million Marks (the 1971 figure), making it the largest private concern of its type in the Federal Republic.

As a comparison, the Battelle Institute in the United States had a turnover of 110 million dollars in 1970. This is not surprising as it is the largest institute of its kind in the United States.

Though this system developed here so promisingly, it does have limits which are less desirable. One major obstacle stands in the way of doing more business in projects financed by industry – there can be no absolute guarantee that staff will keep results secret.

Research Institute commissioned by industry do all they can to ensure absolute secrecy concerning the projects they are working upon. But industry has maintained its attitude of healthy distrust.

Various security measures have been adopted. Institute property has been fenced off and only persons with a pass have been allowed in. Visitors have to be accompanied and are only allowed into certain rooms. The career and personal details of every member of the staff is subject to scrutiny. But leaks still occur.

Industrial espionage need not be the main reason for these leakages. The turnover of staff, higher than average in institutes employing mainly young scientists, may appear harmless at first sight but it can sometimes lead to rival institutes or firms obtaining astonishing results in their research work.

That is why many of the projects commissioned by industry concentrate on basic research. The nearer to perfection a project becomes, the more likelihood there is of a firm continuing work in its own laboratories.

Statistics confirm this practice. In 1967 more than twenty per cent of industrial expenditure was on research while the proportion of basic research conducted by industry itself amounted to only 3.6 per cent, though this does not cover the chemical industry.

When challenged on this point, a number of spokesmen for the chemical industry claimed that firms in this sector only commissioned basic research when conditions within the firm made this indispensable.

Chemical concerns wish to be as independent as possible in the research and development sector as the chemical industry, more than any other branch of the economy, lives constantly from new developments and only by keeping research under their own roof can firms safeguard their future existence and their chances of making a profit.

Many firms have adopted the policy of only commissioning outside institutes to do small sections of a largescale project. The staff of these institutes are thus unable to learn much about the project as a whole.

The problems are different when the State commissions research. The amount of projects commissioned by the State is considerably higher than the number financed by industry as it is not merely a small percentage of State expenditure that finances external research.

Apart from the projects conducted by the State-run research installations, those operated by the Federal states and the various Federal Institutes, all research is external research commissioned from other research institutes or the research laboratories of industrial concerns.

As much as 53 per cent of the central government's expenditure on science went on commissioning research projects. A total of 1.5 milliard Marks went to industrial concerns and associations and 1.2 milliards to scientific institutes without a commercial basis.

Central government expenditure on science and research is expected to reach 11.8 milliard Marks in 1975. Even if the proportion of the total budget spent on research were to remain at the current figure on 53 per cent, a total of 6... milliards would flow into the external research sector.

While the strategy behind industrial research policy can be described as clearly profit-oriented, publicly-backed research serves the complex aim of national welfare, a concept that can be interpreted in a number of ways according to the position of the observer.

The large number of public authorities responsible for planning and finance take the final decision on the growing volume of research and set priorities as the financial means at their disposal are limited.

Almost all ministries have to be consulted. Apart from the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministries of Transport, Defence, Economic Affairs, Finance and Food, Agriculture and Forestry are particularly important in view of the financial aspect.

The Federal states must also be consulted along with the large independent scientific organisations like the Research Association and the Max Planck Society.

These problems of consultation and coordination give financially talented heads of research institutes a good opportunity to obtain money for research projects that may not enjoy top priority status.

It has often been claimed that State and private interests are so intermingled here that it is hard to tell from the outside whether industry or the bureaucracy are setting the aims of research policy.

The amount of State influence on the research structure of a nation is of immense significance and demands an incalculable measure of responsibility from those bodies in charge.

The Education and Science Ministry can only be praised for prompting public discussion of State research policy. It is be the first time the public has learned how much money is spent on specific research projects and what research institutes participate in the research budget.

Gisela Steeman...

(Deutsche Zeitung, 23 February 1973)

Scientists demand measures against spread of cadmium dust

Cadmium dust from incinerators could soon prove a greater hazard to health than the lead in car exhausts, it was claimed at an international forum arranged by the Engineering Association in Düsseldorf.

The main purpose behind the discussions was to fix the maximum permissible level of cadmium dust in the atmosphere. Professor Magnus Piscator of Stockholm's Karolinska Institute called for a ban on the use of cadmium in the production of synthetics.

"Children face no danger when playing with the new-style plastic building bricks," he explained. "But when the bricks are thrown away, they are burned and the cadmium content used to stabilise and colour the plastic mass escapes." As cadmium is used for kitchen equipment as well as toys, this represents a serious new threat to the atmosphere.

Professor Piscator stated that the cadmium was then concentrated in the ears of wheat or rice. Once absorbed by the human organism, cadmium would not decompose for some twenty years.

The amount of cadmium that is absorbed into the body in what we eat has reached a danger level in Europe and the United States and health could soon be jeopardised.

Professor Hans Werner Schlipköter, head of Dusseldorf University's department of air hygiene, described the cadmium content found in the air as an even greater problem than the high concentrations of lead and zinc.

John E. Knelson of the Environment Protection Agency called into existence by President Nixon told the hearing of the results of an eleven-week long experiment in Clintonim jail, New York State, to trace the effects of lead in the atmosphere on human blood.

The prisoners who took part in the experiment were subjected to a lead concentration of 3.2 millionths of a gramme per cubic metre of air, a level that is sometimes exceeded in both America and various cities in the Federal Republic.

Knelson claimed that a concentration of two millionths of a gramme per cubic metre of air did not normally cause an increase in the amount of lead found in the blood. But during the course of the experiment nearly all the prisoners taking part reached the danger level of thirty milligrammes of lead per one hundred millilitres of blood.

Experts from an environmental protection institute in North Rhine-Westphalia spoke of the "sea of lead" that is to be found in the atmosphere when no wind blows. In Essen for example they found that the lead content of the air remained relatively constant even when weather conditions changed.

After one and a half days of consultations the conference issued its first recommendations on what should be the highest permissable levels for heavy metal concentrations in the atmosphere.

John E. Knelson demanded more thorough investigations into the dangers of lead concentrations and set a temporary danger level of two milligrammes per cubic metre of air, though he pointed out that this figure could be cut in future. The conference adopted his suggestion.

Because of the particular hazard involved in high concentrations of cadmium the conference fixed the danger level at one fortieth for that of lead. It was also decided that the maximum permissible level of zinc in the air should be one twentieth of the limit imposed for lead.

A second cut in the lead content of the petrol sold in the Federal Republic is planned for 1976 and Professor Schlipköter believes this will largely eliminate the danger of too great a concentration of lead in the atmosphere.

He also considers it necessary for architects and roadbuilders to make their contribution towards preventing air pollution. A high level of air pollution is often found on the side of buildings and terraced houses sheltered from the wind.

Measures to combat this are particularly important in areas where wind speed often sinks to below two metres a second. "Bonn is a case in point," Professor Schlipköter adds.

Peter Weigert

(Die Welt, 26 February 1973)

EDUCATION

Survey of school-leavers shows them to be sadly uncritical

Children in this country have to attend school up to the age of fifteen. They then leave elementary school to take a job. In a few years they will be allowed to vote. But just how much do they know? What do they think about school, home and society?

Forty boys and girls from the two ninth classes in a village school near Hamburg answered these questions. Both classes had a high standard of proficiency which was why the education authority recommended them. Almost all these children's parents had no more than an elementary school education. Their fathers are manual workers, craftsmen or small farmers.

The children were well-informed about development aid and they certainly knew more about this topic than their parents as they had learned about it at school. But most of them knew little about the origins of the German Democratic Republic. Though they are only to spend another few weeks at school their history lessons have only taken them as far as the Second World War.

It is depressing how little attention these children have paid to the nationwide criticism of the education system. When asked what they would change if they had the chance, one boy stated he would ban geography as being superfluous. Another boy would ban art. A girl wanted school to begin later in the morning so that she need not get up so early during the winter.

Most of the changes were desired for personal reasons. The few pupils who demanded more basic changes such as "greater freedom" or "greater support for pupil administration" were at a loss to explain exactly what they meant when challenged.

It might have been expected that answers to this question would have had more substance in the city itself or among secondary school pupils but this was only true to a limited extent, if at all.

When pupils attending the tenth class of a intermediate school in the centre of Hamburg were asked the same question, the answers were more or less of the same type. Few criticisms were made of the education system. In fact, few criticisms were made of anything.

How much information do children gain from mass media such as newspapers? Few of the children's parents were regular subscribers to a newspaper. Occasionally they bought the popular *Bild* or *Morgenpost*.

The boys usually read crime reports, local news and the sports pages, if they read the newspaper at all. The girls read the crime reports, local news and the classified advertisements.

Reading about politics was exceptional as the subject was considered too complicated. The only reason the children watched television news was because it saved them the effort of reading about it. Political features such as *Report*, *Panorama* or *ZDF Magazin* were never switched on.

Only one the children claimed to read regularly: "Tom Sawyer, Robinson Crusoe, the Battle of Britain and books about fighter planes and Stalingrad." This boy was a farmer's son who wanted to become a bookseller.

Most of the other boys only read books on "rockets" and "sport". Literature is usually consumed in the form of science fiction comics. One of the girls had just finished *Schoolgirl Report*, the book based on the sex film. "Are things like that in your school?" she was asked. "No, we're quite permissive," she answered, "but not that permissive. We live in the country but it's different in the city."

"Have you ever borrowed a book from a library?" she was then asked. "No." Then: "Do you own any books?" "Only this one."

The question of whether they approved the way their parents had brought them up was couched in indirect terms: "What would you do differently if you had children?" Though the word "anti-authoritarian" is so commonly used nowadays, none of the pupils would be willing to give their children a completely anti-authoritarian education. They would bring them up less strictly – by this they usually meant that their children need not be in so early – but they would still demand discipline.

Some of those asked claimed they would pay more attention to their children than they receive at home: "I would spend more time with them," "I would discuss their problems more;" would talk to them about everything, even things that are none of their business."

They evidently have a real need of communication which their parents cannot satisfy. Their parents either lacked the words to speak more with their children about the practical matters of everyday life or they were unwilling to accept adolescents as their equals. In many cases the interviewers felt they were speaking with orphans.

Most of them felt that their fathers ignored them more than their mothers. When asked who they would turn to with their problems, few children named their father. They were just as likely to go to their teacher or pastor. Sometimes their elder sister or brother or brother-in-law were mentioned but it was usually their mother.

She is still the most important person for fifteen and sixteen-year-olds even though she too goes out to work in many households. The traditional idea of family life is extremely pronounced. The father is the breadwinner and the mother takes care of the family.

Although 36 of the 40 children had been confirmed, few of them would confide in their pastor. It is evident that the clergy stand for a cause that the young do not accept. Most of the children gave an emphatic no to the question whether or not they believed in God.

They claimed that they agreed to be confirmed because of the presents they would receive, because it is a tradition, because their parents wanted them to, because everybody is confirmed or because the they want a Church wedding.

Their desire to get married in Church was the reason put forward most frequently. The wedding is not seen as a

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■ OUR WORLD

Cowboys and Indians in the Federal Republic

They go under resounding names such as *Arizona Boys, Yakimas, Sioux Nevada, Arapahoes* or *US-Cavalry*. The 'they' are the 15,000 members of the 63 Wild West Clubs in this country, in Munich, Stuttgart, Aachen, Cologne, Hamburg and Berlin. The clubs allow members to make the cowboy or trapper dreams of their childhood and youth come true.

The members of the Western Clubs look upon themselves as individualists, who pursue their dream of the America of the nineteenth century with scientific exactitude. With German thoroughness they do not limit themselves to following the day to day life of cowboys and Indians. They look upon themselves as painstaking researchers into American history. They are historians dressed as cowboys and Indians.

One of the 63 Western Clubs is the *Prariefreunde* in Cologne. Every weekend the 37 clubmembers meet in the clubhouse named Nu-kla-kai-at, which in the Sioux language means "Home of peace". The deputy chairman of the club is Hans Jäckel, 50, a government official who during his leisure weekends goes under the name 'Old Joe'. He explained the function of "Präriefreunde".

He said: "The club is a group of individualists playing the part of cowboy, Indian or trapper. The name refers to the vast prairies that stretched across America before it was peopled.

"Clubmembers identify themselves with the original inhabitants and the colonisers and regard themselves as researchers, it seems, investigating the true history of early America."

Cowboy Hans Jäckel alias Old Joe explained the aims of the club. He said: "We are not only interested in a theoretical study of customs and the daily life of the early Americans, but also to wear the clothes worn in the period, and this puts us in contact with the other clubs that have a similar interest – the dress worn by cowboys, Indians and trappers."

He continued: "The dress should be historically correct, not some mass-produced rubbish with twentieth century boots and a hat from the 21st century with weapons that probably date from the seventeenth century. All our members, the Indians as well as the cowboys possess dress and accoutrements that are from the actual period without any falsification or up-dating. We all try to copy the Old West and get the feeling of the period."

This is the club's main accent, achieved with painstaking attention to details. Those who do not want to go along with this scrupulousness are asked to leave the club.

The *Arizona Boys, Yakimas, Sioux Nevada, Arapahoes, US-Cavalry* and *Prärlefreunde* take this business of trying to get a real feel for the period very seriously. They use their few leisure hours to chase authenticity. Hans Jäckel explained for example to what extent club members went to make authentic Indian dress.

He said: "The skins used to make the Indian dress are tanned in the original Indian manner, the pieces are sewn together in the same way the Indians practised and the decorations are copied as exactly as possible. Pearl work is common. Porcupine bristles are used for decoration on the shirt and the headband. Genuine Indian hairstyles are imitated or authentic wigs used, and sometimes real human hair is employed to copy Indian styles."

The regulations concerning the Indian dress are also applicable to the cowboy and trapper clothes. At the weekends club members try to live an authentic 'Western' life in every detail.

The American flag of the period flies over the 63 clubs in this country, the flag with only thirteen stars on a blue background. The clubs concentrate their activities on Western life at the time when there were only thirteen states in America.

The cowboys in this country go as far as to forbid the 'Indians' from entering the saloon in their endeavour to remain true to the facts.



Indian Council in Bavaria

Hans Jäckel continued: "Sometimes we go out to a camp to stay the night in the real style sleeping with a saddle for a pillow around a camp fire lying on mother earth. If you came to visit our tepee you would not find air mattresses and camp beds. Our intention is to make everything as genuine and real as possible."

He continued: "In most cases we cook our meat over the camp fire on a skewer of wood. This gives the meat the real taste particularly if an ember or so gets stuck to the grilled meat."

The 63 clubs in the Federal Republic come under the control of a central organisation in Munich. This organisation issues the rules and regulations that club members are expected to follow.

The Western Clubs do not go in for shoot-ups and duals with the Colt 45. Although the 15,000 clubmembers are anxious to re-live Western life in every detail they know that the gun-toting cowboy and the murderous Indian are fictions created by film-makers and novelists who do not care for the facts. Clubmembers do carry weapons but they do not use them, not even to fire off blank cartridges. Maintaining order is the task of marshals appointed by the Munich organisation. Hans Jäckel is one of these marshals.

The 63 Western Clubs find non-member clubs that go in for wearing fantastic clothes and putting on shows such as stage coach hold-ups a thorn in their flesh. "Groups of this sort give the Cowboy-and-Indians movement in this country a poor public image," said one Sioux from Cologne who did not want to give his name "in case I have trouble with a law suit."

On the motives that drove grown-ups to pursue their childhood dreams Hans Jäckel has this to say: "In one way it is a bias to the Romantic, an escape from the everyday things of life. To spend leisure time away from the confining four walls of home and the rat-race office or factory."

He continued: "It is then a flight into the Romantic and away from the routine of everyday life, if you like, although there was little Romanticism for the real cowboys and Indians. Life for them was hard and the only Romanticism they had was the fabulous country, the splendid panoramas and the clouds floating over the sky and the immense open spaces."

But the flight from the routine of everyday life in our industrialised society has to be a seriously organised adventure. The romanticism of the Western Clubs in this country is the glamour of pioneers and the U.S. cavalry.

The tolerance of the Western Clubs is in fact a sign of intolerance. Karl Otto Kroll, 50, the chairman of the Cologne *Prärlefreunde* and who on Saturdays and Sundays is a Sioux Indian by the name of Winni Nappa (which means Rising Fire) is not prepared to have anyone with a criminal past in his club.

He said: "I take a strong line in order to keep order and peace in the club and then I don't want people pointing an accusing finger at us saying that we are a crowd of criminals."

He continued: "But this is only natural. As I have said already the Club may take itself too seriously at times, but at all times it takes itself seriously with regard to clothing and behavious. Behaviour is all important."

Federal marshall Hans Jäckel pointed out that any club member who did not feel he could adhere to he rules of the organisation was immediately excluded from club activities.

Although the Western clubs in the Federal Republic were not keen to associate themselves with the trivialities that were disseminated by Wild West novelists and filmmakers they were all in favour of 'Law and Order'.

The Club members direct their interests to an idealised view of the West that has in fact no stake in reality. Their vision is as nebulous as the panoramas, the clouds and sky and the vast open plains.

Otto Kroll said: "We are very deeply involved in the history of early America. Each year all 63 clubs palaver at an "Indian Council" to discuss their research, to report on their experience in dealing with leather in he Indian manner, or to prove how good they are at lassoing."

Mario Angelo

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 February 1973)



Berlin cowboys in the stockade

(Photos: Greta Robok)

School-leavers

Continued from page 13

vow before God, in whom they do not usually believe anyway, but as a ritual.

This is a revealing statement when the future life of these young people is considered. It is a life of dependence and social anonymity. The boys may have a chance of gaining local prominence by playing football. Football indeed plays a major role. But the girls will probably only be at the centre of attention once in their lives – at their wedding. And a wedding is far more impressive in a church than in a registry office.

When talking about their future, the interviewer pointed out that there were people who earned ten or even one hundred times as much as the children would ever earn and he asked them whether they found this vast discrepancy unfair.

They did not see this as an injustice. "They probably learned more at school," they stated. "Every one starts at the bottom." They also have to start earlier," another explained. "Factory owners for instance were able to build up a small factory with their starting capital and this grew and grew.

The children adhere to what they have learned at school – hard-workers gain the best grades. Their experience suggests to them that things are the same in professional life: "It's obvious that the more intelligent and more hard-working earn more."

The short-term aim of the school-children interviewed was to own a house of their own.

Rainer Hagen

(Die Zeit, 23 February 1973)

■ SPORT

Füssen's ice hockey club celebrates its fiftieth anniversary

There is no room left for cups and trophies in the office of Füssen ice hockey club. The present collection not only gathers dust on top of filing cabinets; it is also filed away in drawers and cupboards that might normally be expected to contain more conventional office equipment.

This is the logical outcome of decades of constant success in the trade. Füssen in the Allgäu mountains is a small town, and when the locals started to chase the puck half a century ago other clubs were more than a match for them. But this state of affairs soon changed.

Füssen was a late developer as far as ice hockey is concerned. On a bitterly cold December day in 1922 a dozen men met in the Gasthof zur Sonne and talked a good deal about skiing and the ties of friendship but never a word about ice hockey.

It was not until a year later when a Leinweber, one of the sons of a local building contractor, was buried in an avalanche, that his brothers decided to give up skiing as too dangerous and try their hands at ice hockey, a sport they had at that time heard of by name only.

They rustled up a few football players and ventured out on to the ice in football kit with bare knees and odd sticks.

When, in winter 1925, the Füssen team challenged Riessersee second team to a fixture on a frozen pond in the village of Bad Faulenbach, they realised that they wielded their sticks in a most unorthodox manner.

In mid-match the Füssen team copied the Riessersee style and were lucky to escape with a 1 – 0 defeat. But this blot in their copybook annoys Füssen to this day and the Garmisch club remains Fussen's arch-enemy.

Yet since the war competitors in the Allgäu, Bavaria, Berlin and the West have stood hardly a chance against Füssen, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary by winning the sixteenth championship title since 1949.

In view of what would seem to be an uncanny succession of championship wins Füssen has been called any number of names suggestive of wizardry of one kind and another.

Yet there is nothing out of the ordinary about the way in which Füssen gains its reserves of first-rate players. For nine months in the year ice hockey is a school subject, the club's youth secretary, Wilhelm Ott, being headmaster of the local secondary school.

For the same nine months the Füssen rink boasts artificial ice, so the promising youngsters do not need to be sought out by a talent scout. They are there to be sifted.

Their careers might even begin at the local Protestant Kindergarten, where children are also sent out on to the ice. They could certainly reach their peak at the national training centre currently under construction in the vicinity of the Füssen clubhouse.

And if you feel keen on keeping in trim at a more advanced age you can join the Old Stars, the Füssen team that includes ex-internationals such as Paul Ambros, Ernst Trautwein and Helmut Zanghellini.

Füssen's difficulty nowadays is keeping its best players in Füssen. The prospect of more money is, of course, a temptation but Allgäu folk generally stay put. Füssen people are firmly rooted in local life and their trades – toolmaker, electrician, plumber, turner, fitter, bricklayer – are likewise respectable.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

For decades Füssen has relied on the town (population 10,000) and surrounding villages for player material. This is an established practice that has proved its worth and will not be abandoned overhastily.

The club not only has sporting success to offer. Travel is a further inducement for players, and the further the better. Last year some of the best players flew to Majorca. No one was impressed. Now a tour of South Africa, that would be another matter altogether.

Nowadays people are more demanding. This year, for instance, the team will head for the Crimea following a tournament in Leningrad. No one objected but no one sounded a particularly enthusiastic note either.

Trainer Markus Egen, a local man with 99 caps to his credit and an ice hockey stick manufacturer by profession, feels prosperity to be poison.

In days of yore, he recalls, players used to come to training by bicycle. After the war they used to travel to Krefeld for a match with sacks full of potatoes, pulling off feats that in those hard days were well-nigh impossible.

And nowadays? Friendships develop, but are much dependent on success. Enthusiasm is not easily roused.

Anything up to 12,000 spectators used to crowd into the club stadium. Now the average gate is a mere 2,000. The fans used to bombard their favourites with black-market oranges. Nowadays they seldom deign to applaud.

Even a man as hard-boiled as Markus Egen sounds a somewhat regretful note when talk gets round to the past. The post-war years when ice hockey got back on its feet in Füssen were the golden years.

Local enthusiasm about the feats of the club has been restrained for some time. From 1952 to 1959 Füssen had an uninterrupted run as national champion. Nowadays the club is more or less expected to beat all comers.

Füssen the town, a health resort, has come to regard its ice hockey club as a matter of course. The local authorities certainly do not pay it much in the way of tribute.

Players are allowed to walk around with the town's coat of arms emblazoned on their chests, but this, when all is said done, is free advertising for a town that it has taken the ice hockey club to make really well-known.

In summer ice hockey is a tourist attraction. When the temperature reaches its peak Füssen earns interest on the money, time and effort invested in winter.

For friendly matches the Russians are the calibre of opponent Füssen likes. A full house can be guaranteed, hoteliers are instructed to inform visitors about the forthcoming fixture between "two famous teams" and the spa authorities raise the flag bearing the inscription "Ice Hockey Today."

Tourists certainly know that a game is on and careful readers of the ice hockey programme will learn that the programme has been submitted in advance for approval to the local authorities. Füssen and its ice hockey club do good business together.

The club does not boast well-to-do financial backers, though its president is the Prince of Thurn and Taxis. "A name can also be a help," managing director Walter Richter soberly comments.

Füssen is also well represented in the national Ice Hockey Association, club vice-president Otto Wanner also presiding over the national association.

Füssen's next target is to win its seventeenth championship title and equal the record still held by the Berlin club that won seventeen titles between the wars and before the First World War and an eighteenth in conjunction with Brandenburg in 1944.

Sooner or later Füssen is bound to pull it off, just as its schoolboys are bound to win their umpteenth junior championship title. Last year, for instance, the Füssen schoolboys beat their Bavarian rivals with 28 - 0 points in the tables and 166 - 12 goals on the ice.

In the years to come, then, there will continue to be a shortage of shelf space for cups and trophies, but one major problem remains. It is the exodus of spectators from the countryside.

In recent years Füssen has held home fixtures in Munich even in an attempt to capture the crowds, holding raffles for salami sausages, Persian carpets and Christmas cakes as an added attraction.

What more can Füssen be expected to do? Lose a game, perhaps?

Hans-Joachim Leyenberg

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 February 1973)



Füssen's ice hockey team

(Photos: Horstmüller)



Markus Egen

Tennis as spectator sport is not very successful

The professional tennis circus recently made its third appearance in this country. For the third time the number of spectators proved a disappointment.

As on past occasions the tennis was good. Are indoor tournaments not attractive enough for fans in this country?

In Rotterdam 40,000 fans flocked to the tournament, in Philadelphia there were as many as 60,000 spectators. In Cologne there were seldom more than 15,000 fans on hand.

Comparisons of this kind are somewhat dubious, however. America has Stan Smith, Holland Tom Okker but this country? Were Wilhelm Bungert and Christian Kuhnke in top-flight form as they were, say, ten years ago the fans would have flocked to the arenas in Essen and Cologne too.

Pairings such as Rosewall v. Bungert, Smith v. Kuhnke and Laver v. Bungert would have attracted droves of tennis fans to the venue in this country.

Jochen Grosse of Cologne, who has encountered difficulties and experienced disappointments galore in promoting past tennis circus tournaments in this country, nonetheless plans to go ahead with a fourth tournament in Munich in April.

"If I had had gates like those in America and Holland I would be a rich man," he soberly states. "What a pity that no one from this country's Davis Cup team was able to take part."

Neither the Federal Republic Lawn Tennis Association nor the players themselves can be blamed. Fifteen journalists from all over the world seeded the world's best 64 players last season. They included neither Harald Elschenbroich nor Jürgen Fassbender nor Karl Meiler.

This came as something of a surprise to this country and the LTA arranged a tour of Australia and the United States for its top flight this winter. Meiler and Fassbender did so well that the experts are going to have to change their minds.

The new synthetic court ensures first-rate tennis. No special techniques are needed to derive the greatest benefit from it. The synthetic material is gaining increasing ground and will be used at Munich, where Wimbledon champions Rod Laver and Stan Smith will be among the competitors.

As fresh seedings are made every time the final eight will not necessarily include the same encounters every time.

A number of stars in the B group are suffering from image trouble at present, though. Arthur Ashe is finding it almost impossible to come to terms with the lighting in most arenas and Tom Okker, the Flying Dutchman, is in poor form at the moment.

Wolfgang Lencer

(Die Welt, 27 February 1973)